



The Bethel Citizen

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Serving Bethel and neighboring communities in the mountains of western Maine

Proposed SAD 44 budget up slightly; state aid down

BY AMY WIGHT CHAPMAN

The SAD 44 School Board voted unanimously Monday to approve a draft budget of \$10,661,322 for the 2016 fiscal year. That is up from last year's \$10,564,225 by just under 1 percent. However, a drop in state aid will mean more of an increase to the towns.

Superintendent David Murphy noted that the Finance Committee had pared an additional \$2,052 from the preliminary draft budget presented at the board's April 13 meeting.

The budget relies on approximately \$8.2 million to be raised locally from taxes and \$2.4 million in non-local revenue, which includes tuition received for students living outside of SAD 44 and \$514,000 in carryover from prior budget years, as well as \$182,269 in state aid for education.

Tuition for an anticipated 50 to 60 Andover students who will attend district schools, in addition to a one-time payment of \$130,000 for Andover's share of debt incurred while it was part of SAD 44, will help to increase the amount of non-local revenue in the budget by \$615,000 for FY '16.

Murphy said that in order to determine the amount of tuition revenue the district can expect, he sent a letter to the families of all Andover students. See SAD 44, Page 3

Panel tables LD 1082 discussion

BY ALISON ALOISIO

The Maine Legislature's Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs tabled discussion Tuesday on LD 1082, a bill that, if passed, could impact SAD 44 more financially than the withdrawal of Newry would.

The bill proposes to remove an exemption imposed 10 years ago on SAD #4 and SAD 6 that kept local school cost sharing based entirely on property valuations. The bill was initiated out of concerns from Frye Island, a town in SAD 6 with a similar valuation profile as Newry. At a recent hearing on the bill state Rep. Fran Head and Sen. John Patrick proposed that SAD 44 be removed from the bill.

The Legislative committee spent most of its work session Tuesday discussing the Frye Island situation, putting aside the SAD 44 question for a time. But by the end of the day the SAD 6 discussion had not ended, and the committee decided to postpone further discussion until a later date, according to SAD 44 Supt. Dave Murphy, who attended the committee meeting.

He said an informal straw poll of committee members was taken and most members indicated they would support removing SAD 44 from the bill. The committee will eventually make a formal recommendation to the full Legislature on the bill.



'ANTYTHING GOES' NEXT WEEK-Telstar High School's spring musical, "Anything Goes" will take place at the school on May 7, 8 and 9th. The setting is the ocean liner 'American,' bound from New York to England. The ship is full of castaways, disguises, mistaken identities, gangsters-undercover, high society and narrow escapes. The story revolves around a forbidden love between Billy Crocker, a young Wall Street employee, and Hope Harcourt, a young woman of high society. Other characters include (shown here) Moonface Martin - Public enemy #13, played by Chris Figaratto, and Reno Sweeney, an evangelist-turned-showgirl played by Alsiinn Forbes. The performances on the three days will start at 7 p.m., with an added matinee performance on May 9 beginning at 1:30 p.m. A. Aloisio

ATTENTION TOWN OF BETHEL TAXPAYERS

This notice is to remind you that the second half of your Fiscal Year 2015 tax bill is due and payable May 1, 2015. Interest will begin to accrue May 2, 2015. For the amount owed, please refer to the bill that you received in the fall of 2014. If you have lost or misplaced your bill you may call the office at 207-824-2669 or email at info@bethelmaine.org for an amount owed.



Roddy Royer, portraying Private Stephen Richards of Upton, rehearses for "My Dear Absent Husband," to be performed at Bingham Auditorium on May 17 at 4 p.m. In the background is narrator Lenny Hoy. A. Wight Chapman

Civil War music and drama close out "Local and Legendary" series

BY AMY WIGHT CHAPMAN

"My Dear Absent Husband," a dramatic stage presentation based on letters between a Civil War private and his family in Upton, Maine, will be performed at 4 p.m. on May 17 at Gould Academy's Bingham Auditorium.

To bookend the dramatic presentation, the Maine Music Society Chamber Singers, directed by Dr. John Corrie of Bates College, will perform "Songs of the Civil War" in two sets.

The Chamber Singers, a subgroup of the Androscoggin Chorale, includes several members with connections to the Bethel area: Brendon and Jean Bass, Cathy Hoy, and Susan Davis White.

The program is the culmination of the year-long project, "Local and Legendary: Maine in the Civil War," a collaboration of Gould Academy, the Bethel Historical Society, and the Bethel Library Association.

With a \$2,000 grant, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and awarded by the Maine Historical Society and the Maine Humanities Council, the project has explored local Civil War history through lectures, book discussions, and a film series.

Gould Academy history teacher Brad Clarke chairs the Bethel committee, which successfully competed for one of five grants awarded statewide in the second and final year of the program.

"I read about the grant and decided to apply," Clarke said. "It has been fun collaborating with the historical society and the library."

One of the requirements of the grant is the staging of a dramatic production. Tom Davis took charge of that part of the project, and decided on a dramatization of the actual letters exchanged between Private Stephen Richards and his wife, Lydia, and daughter, Lizzie.

In the waning days of the Civil War, Stephen, a soldier serving in the 30th Maine Regiment, wrote letters home to See Legendary, Page 5

Greenwood selectmen talk privy, boat launch

BY ALISON ALOISIO

Motorists stopping at the Greenwood Shores rest area on Route 26 can soon enjoy a Porta Potty instead of the old privy, thanks to a decision last week by Greenwood selectmen.

The town now owns the rest area, which was given to Greenwood by the state several years ago.

Town Manager Kim Sparks said last season there were "complaints that people were leaving quite a big mess, and [the privy] wasn't usable. We had to have it pressure washed once a month."

She asked selectmen if they wanted to switch from privy to Porta Potty.

"It's all self-contained," said Selectman Amy Chapman. "It's probably better close to the pond, anyway."

Greenwood currently has Porta Potties at the town beach and recreation fields.

In comparing costs, the town officials said Porta Potties cost \$125 a month, for a period of six months. The privy costs \$75 a wash, with \$200 a year to pump out the tank and \$50 for toilet paper. The annual overall difference would be \$50 more for the Porta Potty.

The board voted to go with

the Porta Potty.

BOAT SITE

In other business last week, the board met with Jane Chandler of the Woodstock Conservation Commission, Ron Fournier of the Bryant Pond 4H Camp Steve Wight, Cathy Newell to discuss options for a boat launch on North Pond.

Woodstock and Greenwood share shoreline on the pond. The current boat access on Route 26 in Woodstock will be closed by the Maine Department of Transportation because it is considered an unsafe location. Woodstock

See Boat, Page 3

Woodstock proposes fire truck purchase

BY ALISON ALOISIO

Woodstock selectmen Tuesday voted 2-1 to propose to voters the purchase of a new pumper truck for the Fire Department.

The \$217,000 lease/purchase, if approved at a special Town Meeting, would cost approximately \$30,000 a year over six years.

The current 1987 truck was recently found to have serious deterioration in its tank and water lines during a recent inspection, Town Manager Vern Maxfield said, and fixing it is not worth it.

"The new truck has a life expectancy of 25 years, and per year that's cheaper than buying older trucks," he said.

Fire Chief Kyle Hopps said if voters approve the purchase at a special Town Meeting (expected to be set for May 19), the truck could be ordered in May and delivered in late September.

Selectmen Steve Bies voted no on the issue, he said, not because he opposed a purchase but because he was not ready to commit to the decision this week.

But Selectmen Mike Nadeau and Ron Deegan said they should not wait.

"Time is wasting," said Nadeau.

"We need the truck," said Deegan.

Last year the town bought a used ladder truck for \$50,000 with funds from the Fire Truck Reserve Account. That account now stands at \$124,000. The town typically adds \$30,000 to it each year.

The selectmen said they were concerned about depleting the fund with a second truck purchase so soon.

But, said Nadeau, "This is about people's safety."

The board is expected to set the date for a special Town Meeting when they meet Tuesday.

WES top achiever school

The Woodstock Elementary School was one of 12 schools recognized statewide last week for their "high performance as measured by the state's federally required accountability system."

According to the Maine Department of Education website, the schools have "achieved great performance toward meeting state and federal accountability standards for reading and mathematics. Schools identified as High Performance Reward Schools have met all annual targets and are also performing within the highest 15 percent of Title I schools."

Last year, under the state's "School Report Card" system, WES earned an "A." Statistics with that report showed that in math, 79 percent of Grades

See WES, Page 3

The Bethel Citizen

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Letters

DONATE BLOOD AT TELSTAR

To the Editor:

The Telstar High School National Honor Society will be hosting its annual blood drive on May 12 from noon to 5 p.m. For those who wish to give blood, there are openings for whole blood donations and double red cell donations. Double red donation is a process by which a machine takes only red blood cells and returns plasma, platelets and some saline solution to the donor's bloodstream. This form of donation will leave you feeling more hydrated after the donation, but it does take longer.

There is a particular need for Type O, A negative and B negative donors. Whole blood donors are also needed and donors do not need to know their blood type. Anyone who is 17 or older can donate. Sixteen year olds can donate with signed parent/guardian consent as long as they meet the height and weight requirements.

For more information, please talk to a Telstar National Honor Society member, call the Telstar High School Office at 824-2136, go online to the Red Cross website redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS. There are limited slots, so please sign up soon! Please consider donating this year. There is no substitute for blood donations. Donating blood saves lives.

Aislinn Forbes
NHS Vice President

CASABLANCA THANKS

To the Editor:

John and I would like to thank all who came to Pat's Pizza to support the fundraiser for Casablanca. Thank you, Courtney and Mike Bennett, for taking this huge endeavor on. All who walked through our doors raised \$1,540. If I had to choose a word to describe last Wednesday night it would be CARING. A town caring for its need to have entertainment, and also its need to have an empty building filled.

I would also like to thank our AWESOME STAFF who worked that night: Michelle Powell (bartender), Sam Wells (cook), Alex Crockett (cook), Rebecca Hunt (waitress), Lakota Monzo (cook), Savannah Clough (cook), Amber Morin (waitress) and Jenni Indermuelle (was not on duty, but came in to buy pizzas and jumped in in the kitchen to help us out). All of you make Pat's Pizza the family it is. Thank you for all you do.

Donna and John Gillis, Pat's Pizza owners
Bethel

MORE ON THE WILEY BLOCK

To the Editor:

A good article on the Wiley Block history in the April 9 Citizen. By the way, in the late 1990s the building was vacant and derelict when Jenna and Scott Smith completely renovated it and brought it back to its historically accurate facade.

Sandra Seaver
Bethel

COME TO THE BARN DANCE

To the Editor:

Are you aware of the fun opportunity at the Mahoosuc Mountain Lodge in North Newry this Saturday, May 2? Their old-fashioned barn dance (8 p.m.), preceded by a pot luck (5:30 p.m.) and concert (7 p.m.) is a great family-friendly way to spend your Saturday evening. The Buttermilk Hill Band is such fun and they call all the dances, so no experience is required! Good food, good music, good dancing - do not miss out! \$10/person and children under 16 are half-price. Hope to see you there!

Deb Webster
Newry

REPUBLICAN WARS

To the Editor:

The largest terrorist attack in American history occurred not under this president but the previous one leading that president to drag us into not one but two of the longest wars in our history. Under President Obama the man responsible for the attack was brought to justice and we are ending both those wars. I find it ludicrous to question the ability of this administration to keep Americans safe while at the same time Neo-Cons fight tooth and nail to send American men and women into harm's way again and again. Modern Republicans never met a war they didn't like and seldom start one they can finish.

I should also like to mention the Benghazi silliness. Republicans have run not one, not two, but wait for it... SEVEN congressional investigations into Benghazi. The last concluded this year as had all the previous ones that there was no malfeasance on the part of the administration. So what does the Party of No conclude from this? They have decided to open ANOTHER congressional investigation because they are so worried about the American lives that were lost. They just aren't worried enough about them to open the eighth investigation today. They are going to do it in mid-2016. Is there something important about that year?

Chandler McGrew
Bethel

The Bethel Citizen

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THANKS TO THE WATERFORD FD

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the gentlemen of the Volunteer Fire Dept. of Waterford for the service given when my sump pump died in the middle of the night and a hard rain was filling my cellar. The men began arriving mere minutes following my 911 call. Each and every one sprang to assist in getting the cellar pumped out. My furnace was spared thanks to their service.

This is not the first time I've needed their help. I have called upon them twice before due to similar circumstances during power outages. All three times the volunteers came within minutes and worked their hearts out. I am so grateful for their expertise, knowledge and speed. Any readers looking to donate to a worthy service, the Waterford Volunteer Fire Dept. is most deserving.

Alanna Lane
Albany

WOODLAND CEMETERY MEETING

To the Editor,

The annual meeting of the Woodland Cemetery Company located on Route 5 will be held on Sunday May 3 at 7 p.m. at my house (18 Broad Street, directly across from the Bethel Inn's main entrance). Officers will be elected, a proposed budget will be considered, and plans for the summer and future will be discussed. Anyone interested in maintaining this historic burial ground is cordially invited to attend. Those with forebears buried there are especially welcome.

Among the many "Bethel Notables" buried in Woodland are Dr. Nathaniel T. True, founder of Gould Academy, his daughter Mary True, internationally recognized teacher of the deaf, Clark S. Edwards, commander of the 5th Maine in the Civil War, Dr. and Mrs. Gehring who operated a nationally famous Bethel clinic for persons with nervous disorders, and of course Dr. Moses Mason, physician, U.S. Congressman and Bethel's first Postmaster.

Stan Howe
Bethel

Notes from the State House

BY REP. FRAN HEAD

Ever since the proposed 2016-2017 budget was unveiled, people have been asking me how I feel about eliminating revenue sharing to towns and taxing nonprofit organizations. I've made up my mind on both of these components of the proposal, and appreciate this opportunity to explain my positions.

Nonprofit organizations, in my view, are already contributing enough to our state, and I don't see a need to increase revenue by making it harder for these groups, big and small, to stay in operation.

The Bethel Historical Society is the perfect example of a group which may be rich in land value, but doesn't necessarily have money coming in to offset a dramatic tax increase. The work of these volunteers is admirable, and we are lucky to have such impressive facilities here in town.

To illustrate another impact which taxing nonprofits may have locally, Gould Academy would be expected to pay over \$108,000 a year. The reason why I can't endorse this measure is that Gould is already supporting our community in many ways, such as scholarships to local residents. The Maine Mineral and Gem Museum is also worth mentioning as a unique destination which we should be working to help, not tax.

The Bethel Family Health Center already operates on tight financial margins as a Federally Qualified Health Center, and I worry about how a tax increase would impact funds available for the uninsured and underinsured. Similarly, major hospitals, such as the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, perform "charity care" every single day, and many of these services may be at risk if the organization is taxed at the proposed rate.

I don't believe that we have only a revenue problem in Maine, but more accurately we have a spending problem. As the budget debate wages on in Augusta, my focus will be on reining in spending to responsible levels. I'm not convinced that taxing nonprofits is the answer to helping municipalities, especially considering that not all towns are lucky enough to have organizations like we do.

This brings me to revenue sharing, which will present a real struggle for lawmakers this session. Right now, towns receive upwards of 62 million every year. Gov. LePage originally proposed the elimination of this program, while the House and Senate Democrats have proposed an increase to 80 million dollars annually. The compromise I would ask for is to maintain the current levels under existing law at 62 million.

The debate ahead for both of these issues will allow for us legislators to advocate for the districts we represent. Make no mistake: no vote should be cast lightly. I'll be keeping our local nonprofits in mind during these discussions, and will make sure to keep my constituents updated along the way.

The Bethel Journals

The Skillings family and Bethel Steam Mill

BY DONALD G. BENNETT

For 74 years (1863-1937) the Skillings family's Bethel Steam Mill Co. operated from a 22 acre lot west of Bethel Hill except for two years when the mill company became part of a holding company (a.k.a. the American Bobbin, Spool and Shuttle Co.). It is eight tenths of a mile from the foot of Church Street to the mill location.

In the 1860's steam power changed Bethel's manufacturing potential previously seen as limited due to insufficient water power. David Skillings of Winchester, Mass., "an experienced member of the New England lumber manufacturing community who had a reputation for innovative building techniques by producing 'prefab' or manufactured housing units for the Union Army to be used for field hospitals" saw opportunity in Bethel's manufacturing potential.

In 1863 Skillings started construction of a state of the art steam powered lumber mill which became possibly the first steam powered wood turning mill in Maine. At a special Bethel town meeting on Dec. 12, 1863, voters approved an article to exempt the Bethel Steam Mill Company from taxation for a term of ten years.

Once the mill was in operation it attracted much attention due to its applications beyond simple lumber sawing. There were shingle, clapboard, lath and box machines. One example of innovation was a device which carried the men forward who were the men tending the edge-of-being moved by machine instead of by foot travel saved fifteen miles a day.

In the 1870's David Hastings' sons William and Julius came to Bethel to oversee the Skillings steam mill operation. William E. Skillings took over as president of the company. He and his wife Kate bought the former Ira Kimball house (now known as the Chapman Inn property). The brothers formed a co-partnership, the two properties being merged under the title of W. E. and J. P. Skillings Co. Their office was in the building which still stands on the south side of the West Bethel Road.

In 1880 the mill was converted to manufacturing spools as its main product. At one point monthly production reached 25,000 gross (3.6 million). This lasted until 1890 when the entire business, as well as other local mills including the mill at Locke's Mills, was absorbed into the American Bobbin, Spool and Shuttle Company. Julius Skillings retired; William E. Skillings became secretary of the syndicate. But in 1891 the syndicate failed. Julius Skillings returned and purchased the Bethel Steam Mill, running it until his death in 1925 when his wife took over along with manager Elias Robinson.



Skillington main buildings, cottages and mill from 1931 Special Edition, the Oxford County Citizen.



A Bethel Historical Society photo of the Skillington Village, possibly before 1931. It does not include the mill.

In 1920 Dr. Gehring suggested naming the mill community "Skillington" to honor the Skillings family for its contributions to the town. Skillington was a real community with its own district school of 16 students, store, boarding houses, family housing and club. Since 1889, a telephone line had connected the mill with the Grand Trunk station. Its main problem had been the plague of mill fires which occurred periodically although the cottages, store, and boarding house escaped damage.

In 1931, Mrs. Skillings married Mr. Robinson, and on the death of Nahum Moore*, sales manager, in 1932, continued the business. In spite of two disastrous floods in which the business lost a great deal of money, and the depression after 1929, Mrs. Robinson continued the business, being motivated by the fact that some 50 people depended on the mill for their livelihood. (1931 Special Edition of The Oxford County Citizen)

In 1937 the mill property left Skillings hands; it was sold to Edwin and Arnold Childs of Needham and Quincy, Mass. The transition away from spools to novelties and dowels began. A 1938 fire destroyed most of the machinery which was being upgraded to include more electric motors. An unanswered question is: did the mill operate during World War II?

In 1946 Ralph Young re-opened the mill
See Journals, Page 3

Our Back Pages

BY DANNA BROWN NICKERSON

10 years ago: The Andover Fire Department hosted a regional high- and low-angle technical rope rescue training exercise.

For the first spring in the school's 36 year history, Telstar High School was able to host track meets at its newly completed facility.

Deaths: Eunice D. Salls, Marjorie M. Sweeney, Janet S.H. Bowers, Malcolm Wilson, Minta Williams.

20 years ago: Fourth Graders from Crescent Park, Woodstock and Andover Elementary schools planted Christmas trees to start the seventh year of the Kids for Trees project.

Prior to their first practice, members of the Bethel Bambino baseball team raked and cleaned up the upper field at Crescent Park School.

Births: Justin Peter Dowland, Colton Reginald Godwin, Nichole Brooke Mattie Hart, Joshua Hunter Wardwell, Shennah Lacey Derstine, Tyler Graydon James, Joanna Blake Murch, Micaela Emily Smith, Taylor Jeanne Savage.

Deaths: Jason A. Yates, Etta B. Strickland, Beverly K. Haines.

30 years ago: Hugh and Linsley Chapman purchased the Edelweiss Country Store from Richard and Sheila Waterhouse.

Telstar senior Donna Dorey was named the school winner of the Women's Sports Foundation Milky Way Bar High School All-Star Award.

Birth: Jessica Lynn Morse. Deaths: Donald P. Gammon, Bertha M. Mason, Charles R. Porter, Linwood E. Tucker.

40 years ago: Bethel's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance was accepted by the State of Maine Planning Office.

The large barn in West Bethel village which was built by A.S. Bean in 1890 was being razed by owner P.H. Chadbourne.

Deaths: Ella D. Dyer, Rev. Wilbur Irving Bull, R. James Croteau, Marjorie E. Stevens, Ernest C. Day.

50 years ago: The Wesley Wheeler property on Chapman Street was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ryder.

Stanley and Althea Brown were guests at a surprise 25th wedding anniversary party given by their daughter Anne at her Main Street home.

Birth: Rebecca Ann Smith. Deaths: Edward G. Warren, Elmer E. Bennett, Mrs. Leon Bennett.

60 years ago: The Bethel Library was celebrating the 70th anniversary of its founding with a 12-week series of book reviews and silver teas.

Several trees in Kimball Park were cut to permit widening of the street. A large elm near the Valentine place on Mechanic Street was also cut.

Births: Jack Carleton Cassell and Stafford Hendricks Cassell, Jr.

Deaths: H. Merton Farwell, Anna L. Barker.

70 years ago: E.L. Tebbets Co. mill at Locke's Mills was sold to Ekco Products Co. of Chicago.

All units of the Maine State Guard were engaged in a state-wide recruiting campaign.

Deaths: Abraham Merrill, Erlon Dutton, Charles Wade Robertson.

80 years ago: The annual meeting of the Riverside Cemetery Association was held at the home of its president, E.M. Walker.

The Middle Intervale Farm Bureau met at the home of Mrs. Lloyd Thompson with 19 ladies, eight children and three visitors present.

Birth: Doris Nina Herrick.

Deaths: Josiah W. French, William H. Durkee, Mrs. Grace Cole, Mrs. Emma Mills.

90 years ago: C.W. Hall purchased the barber business of H.H. Brown. His son, Fred Hall, was conducting the business.

George Thompson purchased a house lot of Fred Douglass on Church Street.

Deaths: Mrs. George T. Lawrence, Michael H. Harrington.

110 years ago: The Gould's Academy baseball team played at West Bethel. The score was 21 to 8 in favor of Gould's.

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WES

Continued from page 1

3-5 WES students scored as "proficient" or above on the NECAP and PAAP tests.

In reading, 86.1 percent of students scored "proficient" or above.

The report card system also assigned points for proficiency and for academic growth, with the highest score possible a 400. WES earned a 317.4.

Nearly two-thirds of the reward schools have more than 50 percent of their students qualifying for free or reduced price lunch (FRL), according to the DOE, "proving that all students are capable of achieving academic success when schools put in place the appropriate supports and strategies to help them overcome challenges."

WES had 56 percent of its students qualifying for FRL.

Said Jolene Littlehale, WES teaching principal, "I am very happy that the Woodstock School and its staff are being recognized for their tremendous efforts on behalf of our students. We have spent a great deal of time analyzing student data and using formative assessment to plan for individual strengths and needs as we move through standards. They work hard to ad-

just their instruction to help each child grow and progress. Woodstock School is fortunate to have positive parent involvement and that makes a huge difference."

Supt. Dave Murphy praised the school and the community. "I believe the Woodstock School's recent recognition as a High Performance Reward School by the Maine Department of Education is a fitting tribute to the dedicated efforts that have been made at the school over an extended period of time," he said. "Woodstock's consistently high student performance and the strong support it receives from its PTA, volunteers and the community as a whole is supported by the hard work of the staff, strong building leadership and a committed focus on each student's individual needs. This is a well-deserved recognition for the Woodstock School in particular, and SAD 44 as a whole."

Among other Maine schools recognized were the Minot Consolidated School, Fayette Central School, Durham Community School, South Hiram Elementary School and Edgcomb Eddy School.

SAD 44

Continued from page 1

who currently attend grades K-4 at Crescent Park School to let them know that they have the option of continuing to attend CPS next year.

Under state law, when a town withdraws from a school district, students who have been attending schools in that district may continue to attend for at least one year, with the town responsible for their tuition.

After the first year, permission to tuition students to the district is granted on a case by case basis through a superintendent agreement.

"In year one, we will charge our actual costs for tuition purposes for any students who are attending SAD 44 from Andover," Murphy said. "After the first year, it reverts back to the maximum tuition rate allowed by the state."

"In our case, for grades K-8, we're about on par with what the average [tuition] rate is, and we're just a little bit higher than that at the high school level."

As of Monday, the district had heard back from all but one family who received the mailing, and all of those responding said they planned to send their children to CPS next year.

Murphy said a similar mailing was sent to parents in Grades 5-11 late last week and he expects to receive their responses in the next week or so.

IMPACT ON TOWNS

The expected loss in state aid is \$336,774, Murphy said, and the projected increase to the local share is \$336,991. The state aid loss now means SAD 44 has lost more than \$2.5 million in state aid in less than 10 years, Murphy said.

With the withdrawal of Andover, the local funding for the budget will now be spread over only four towns. The average amount of the cost increase is just over five percent, but it will vary among the member towns.

Bethel will see an increased cost of 3.7 percent, or \$104,030. Costs to both Greenwood and Newry will increase by 4.28 percent, adding \$43,656 to Greenwood's share and \$125,379 to Newry's.

Woodstock will see the largest increase, 11.56 percent, or \$123,584, because the upcoming fiscal year will be the first in which the value of the Spruce Mountain Wind Project has been figured into the school funding formula, increasing the town's total valuation by over \$10 million.

Greenwood Director Larry Merlino said he would have preferred a budget that was five percent lower than the previous year's as a starting point. Then, he said, the

Finance Committee could have added back in the items they felt could not be cut without harming education in the district.

Merlino said he believes that rural areas suffer an unfair impact as a result of cuts to state educational funding and due to federal mandates, particularly in the area of special education.

Both Murphy and Finance Committee Chair Bonnie Largess of Newry encouraged board members who are not on the Finance Committee to attend budget meetings to observe the amount of work that goes into trying to hold the budget down.

"Not until I was on the Finance Committee did I understand what was going on," Largess said. "I encourage people to come to our meetings. In March, we meet every Thursday for about five hours."

TELSTAR ADMIN. QUESTIONED

Bethel director Tim Carter questioned spending \$70,000 for a principal at Telstar Middle School, and the need for three full-time administrators for a total student population of about 400 at the Telstar complex.

"If we put anything in there, I would like to put a teaching principal in the middle school, or an assistant principal, not a full-time principal," he said. "It would save money."

TMS Principal Clark Rafford, who is retiring at the end of June, disagreed. He said the middle school principal handles many issues beyond those related to education.

"Come walk in my shoes, and see what I have to deal with, non-educationally, every single day," he said. "If you cut that position, it's going to be the kiss of death to the Telstar Middle School."

"One of the reasons the district moved to a full-time principal, rather than an assistant principal," Murphy said, "was that there was a feeling at the middle school level, not only with the staff, but with the families as well, that they weren't necessarily getting the same level of support as the high school was."

One half of Rafford's salary

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Boat

Continued from page 1



The site for a potential new boat launch on North Pond in Woodstock. Route 26 is visible in the background.

Jane Chandler

has a purchase and sale agreement for \$75,000 on property on Route 26/Rocky Road, near the current access. If the property is purchased, Woodstock is looking to share the expenses with Greenwood.

Chandler said the total cost to convert the site to a launch would likely be double the sale price, but there is a good chance for getting state grant money to help.

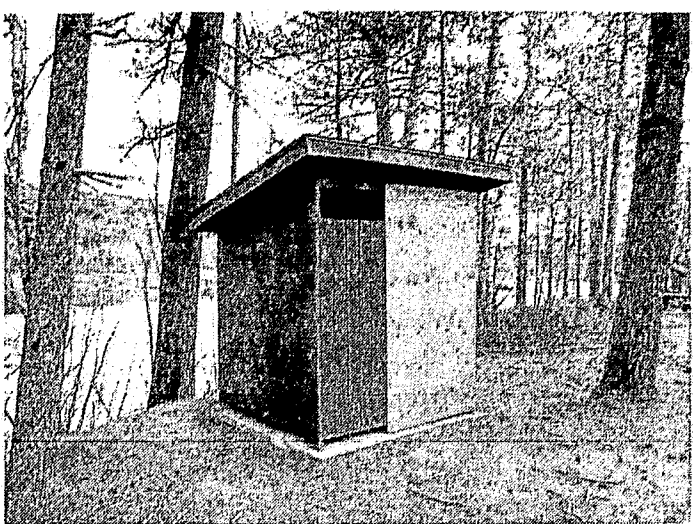
Without a public access, the Department of Inland

Fisheries and Wildlife would not stock the pond with trout.

Chandler told the Greenwood selectmen that while stocking is an issue, "it's not the only issue."

She said, for example, there are three pontoon boats owned by North Pond property owners that need access to get in and out of the water seasonally.

But, said Wight, "I don't think you can necessarily build things on people's



Greenwood selectmen plan to remove this privy at the Greenwood Shores Rest Area and replace it with a Porta Potty.

A. Wight Chapman

boats that are there. It's public water, and people would like to have a chance to use it."

Since meeting with Woodstock selectmen three weeks ago, Chandler's group has researched other options for locations, without much luck.

The Rocky Road location, she said, "isn't ideal, but we haven't found an ideal."

On the subject of how the cost for an access point might be split between the

two towns, Selectboard Chair Fred Henderson wondered if a valuation calculation might work.

Selectman Arnie Jordan said Greenwood "does not have a heck of a lot of property on North Pond. It's all in Woodstock. The ones next to Route 26, they have access of their own. They have no use for a boat launch."

Woodstock had raised the question of using Greenwood's Johnny's Bridge location for a launch, but the idea has found little traction in Greenwood.

Selectman Amy Chapman said not having any public launch would "put pressure on privately owned land. If there isn't any public access, and they can see [another means of access] and they can get to it, they're going to figure out how to do it."

Fournier said he had observed visitors to the area using private land to get their boats to the water.

Update: Chandler said Friday that consulting engineer Ferg Lea looked at the Route 26/Rocky Road site last Thursday and was "optimistic" an access could be built there. The entrance/exit would be on Route 26, and not utilize Rocky Road, as was first thought. Chandler said there appears to be enough space to turn around and come back out onto Route 26.

The next step, she said, was for Lea to talk with an official at the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry about the feasibility of the site.

Journals

Continued from page 2

as a dowel mill. The company became the Bethel Dowel Corporation. An October 1957 fire destroyed the mill again. The owner at the time was Joseph MacGowan, Jr., of New York. During this period Harold "Babe" Carver was manager. Operations resumed in August 1958 only to have another fire break out in the boiler room April 1959. That seems to be the end of manufacturing at the "Bethel Steam Mill." Mill ruins are still to be found on site.

* Nahum Moore was the husband of Dorothy Moore, Barbara Moore Lucas's father.

Note: Hanover Dowell Co. moved to Bethel in 1940; Gilead news often mentioned Julius Skillings mill in Gilead during the 1880's.

Before coming to Bethel William Skillings spent several years traveling in Europe. He had graduated from Harvard in 1886. During the Franco-Prussian War in 1870 he was a war correspondent and entered Paris with the French National Guard when the city was taken from the Communists in 1871. From other sources, Mrs. David Skillings and her son Julius were also in Paris during the year of the Paris Commune.

Sources: William Lapham's History of Bethel, Oxford County newspapers, Bethel Historical Society, 1904 Bethel News, 1931 Oxford County Citizen, Internet sources about the Skillings family and Bethel Citizen news items about fires and events at the former Skillings' mill.

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Briefly

Fire departments save house

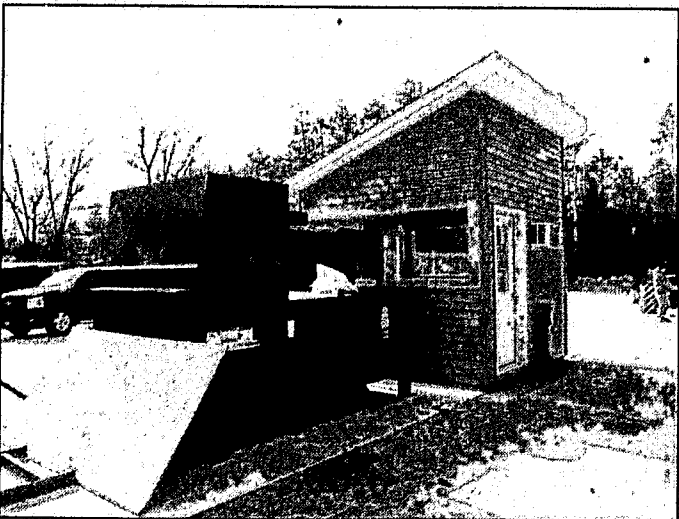
GREENWOOD-A fire early Sunday morning that was likely started by a basement sump pump was contained to the basement area of the pump, Greenwood Fire Chief Al Curtis said Tuesday. The lone occupant of the home, Lee Roberts, got out safely in the fire that was reported at 4:49 a.m., Curtis said. "The smoke detector saved his life. It woke him up," he said. Curtis said there was extensive smoke damage in the house. The state Fire Marshal's Office investigated the blaze Monday and said the pump was the likely cause, according to Curtis. Also responding to the fire were the Woodstock, Bethel and Newry fire departments.

Meals on Wheels benefit Sunday

GREENWOOD-The Shadagee Ramblers are hosting a benefit Sunday at the American Legion Hall on Gore Road to raise money for the Meals on Wheels program, which is struggling with an ever-growing waiting list. Valerie Cole, an elder service specialist with SeniorsPlus, will sing and play the tambourine with the Shadagee Ramblers from 2 to 5 p.m., May 3. Cole said band members noticed the waiting list for the Meals on Wheels program, offered locally through SeniorsPlus, had more than 100 people, and decided that they wanted to do something to help out. "There really is a lot of passion in the community, and we decided to give back by performing," Cole said. "We asked the American Legion in Locke Mills if we could perform there, and they agreed to donate the venue to us." The Shadagee Ramblers perform a "mixture of classic country and old-time music," Cole said. "We basically play anything that's popular with the audience." Tickets to the event will be \$10 at the door and \$8 in advance. "We're hoping that the performance will become contagious in the community, and that people find other ways to help," Cole said. "The demand for the Meals on Wheels program is increasing, but there isn't enough funding to support it." For more information, call 1-800-427-1241, email info@seniorsplus.org or visit www.seniorsplus.org. - M. Daigle, Sun Media

Board accepts flagpole offer

WOODSTOCK-The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to allow the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War to purchase a new flagpole for the town's monument area. Town Manager Vern Maxfield said the DUV would install the pole. In other business, selectmen agreed to table discussion on what to do with the 2007 Sterling 8500 plow truck until Maxfield makes a recommendation. Maxfield said earlier this month that the truck needed repairs to the body and the rear end gears should be "changed from a highway truck setup to a plow truck setup." He estimated repairs could exceed \$34,000. Deegan and Selectman Mike Nadeau said repairing the truck would be like throwing good money after bad, and the board agreed to look into getting an appraisal for a trade-in for a new truck. Maxfield said the issue would have to be tabled until the next board meeting May 5. Selectmen also tasked Maxfield with looking into tax-acquired property laws for Maine before their next meeting. Deegan said the town had a list of potential tax-acquired land, and the town's ordinance requires Maxfield to offer the land to the owner first, and then owner's heirs. "I know that Vern has already covered the first step, so next, we need to look into offering the land to heirs," Deegan said. "However, I think that Vern should check with the state and figure out how far we need to go, in terms of notifying them." Maxfield told Deegan the town would have to put an advertisement in the paper to notify any heirs that the land was available. "Yes, but how long would we need to advertise the fact?" Deegan asked. "Let's say we advertise for a year and nobody answers. We sell the land to someone, and a year later, we get an heir who says they want the land. Is there a certain amount of time where we wouldn't have to offer it to the heir anymore?" Maxfield said he could check state law. "I want to know if 'heirs' means immediate family, or if it means second and third cousins," Deegan said. - M. Daigle, Sun Media



ZERO SORT STARTING-Zero sort recycling arrives in Woodstock and Greenwood this weekend. The Greenwood/Woodstock Transfer Station shared by the two towns will begin accepting recyclables that have not been pre-sorted. Going into the same bin at the station will be cardboard (including, for example, corrugated and food packaging boxes), paper, plastic (#1-7), metal (such as aluminum cans, pie plates, foil, cans) and glass (any color), according to information provided by the towns. Containers should be rinsed and free of food waste. Not accepted are plastic bags, window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, dishes, pyrex, ceramics, paper towels, facial tissues, styrofoam, recyclables containing food waste, paints, oils, hazardous material, needles, syringes, VCR tapes, CDs/DVDs, scrap metal, pots and pans. Shown here is the new compactor for recyclables.

A. Wight Chapman

Civil War program at BHS

BY TERRY KARKOS,
SUN MEDIA WIRE

More than 25 people attended the Bethel Historical Society's program "Lincoln and the Civil War" on Saturday at the Dr. Moses Mason House.

The program marked the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination on April 14, 1865. The society displayed exhibits from a private collection featuring original letters signed by Lincoln, preserved wildflowers that he had picked, photographs and an engraving of the president.

The display included a huge portrait painting of Lincoln that was given to Gould Academy by Charles P. Bartlett of Gould's Class of 1915 in memory of Bartlett's brother, Alton Bartlett of the Class of 1914.

"I was glad to have such a good turnout today," Randall H. Bennett, executive director, said following the event that featured a film segment from the History Channel's "Abraham Lincoln Biography" documentary.

The society-aided segment features longtime Lincoln scholars sharing their knowledge about Lincoln and his personality and actions leading up to, during and after the Civil War. It in-

cludes his assassination.

The film touched on how the typhoid fever death in February 1862 of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln's 11-year-old son Willie adversely affected them. It also detailed the president's battle with depression and his frequent trips to battlefields to meet with Union soldiers. Lincoln was the only U.S. president who exposed himself to enemy fire during a war.

The film notes that Lincoln wasn't assassinated because of his Emancipation Proclamation freeing the country's slaves, but because, during a speech, he said he wanted to give African-Americans the right to vote. John Wilkes Booth, who heard that speech, killed Lincoln two days later.

After the movie, Bennett and retired executive director of the society, Stan Howe, held a short discussion about Lincoln and the film.

"I've seen lots of films about Lincoln, but this one seems to cover more aspects of his personality," Howe said. "He was a tremendously complex man, and to see it all here in all these various commentaries, you can't really appreciate it until you've seen this film. For 50 minutes, I

See Civil War, Page 6



LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR-More than 25 people attended the Bethel Historical Society's program "Lincoln and the Civil War" on Saturday at the Dr. Moses Mason House. The program marked the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination on April 14, 1865. The society displayed exhibits from a private collection featuring original letters signed by Lincoln, preserved wildflowers that he had picked, photographs and an engraving of the president. Here, Greg Lynes of Saco stands beside a portrait of Abraham Lincoln at the Bethel Historical Society on Saturday. The portrait is on permanent loan to the society from Gould Academy, which received it as a gift from Charles P. Bartlett, a member of the class of 1915, in memory of his brother, Alton F. Bartlett, class of 1914. Lynes, who has been a Civil War reenactor for over 20 years, portrays a Union Army Ordnance Sergeant from U.S. Engineering Company A.

A. Wight Chapman

Former teacher promotes AES fundraisers

BY TERRY KARKOS,
SUN MEDIA

A former Andover Elementary School teacher is launching the first of several fundraisers aimed at raising money for the new town-run school.

Townpeople voted last year to leave SAD 44 and start their own school.

"I figure we need to start doing fundraisers for it," Carol Emery of Andover said last week. "I'm hoping I start something so I don't have to do it all by myself."

In honor of the first day of May and the fact that money has to be raised, Emery named the event "Mayday! Mayday!"

The event, which features food and entertainment for adults and free family fun and food the following day, will start with a spaghetti supper at 6 p.m. Friday, May 1, at the Town Hall.

A variety show and dance to country and bluegrass music performed by the Farmers Hill Jam Band consisting of Pete Coolidge and friends will follow the supper. The cost of the supper is "whatever donation you want to give," and the show and dance will be \$10 per person, Emery said.

Family Fun Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at the ball field and tennis courts by Mills' Market. "There will be lots of games and maybe a street hockey court, and we're planning a barbecue cookout and it's free for Andover residents."

She also wants to hold pickleball games, but would like to have someone who knows how to mark out the course do it on a tennis court. Pickleball is a sport that combines several elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong and is played with a paddle and a plastic ball.

Friday's variety show will feature Emery's debut as a stand-up comedienne. "I'm going to be experimenting with my comedic

career," she said, laughing. "My sister thinks I'm either drunk or crazy, so I'm working on it. You just have to dare to do some of this stuff. Nobody knows I'm a stand-up comic, so it could be a very short-lived career. We'll see. But it shows I'll do anything for the school."

Emery said that because it's her show, there won't be an open mic for other wannabe performers or bonafide performers. That will occur with the next variety show fundraiser she holds for the school.

She said many Andover

residents have stepped forward and volunteered to restore the gazebo on the Common and the Town Hall and ball park. "Everybody in town has been really generous in volunteering."

But her passion is for the school in which she and her husband taught parents of today's schoolchildren when they were children.

"John and I came out of the University of Maine at Farmington in 1972 to work at Andover Elementary School," Emery said. She taught first grade;

he taught fifth and sixth grades.

"I didn't last very long, because I started a family," she said. "So we did our student teaching here (in Rumford), and then we heard these great things happening in Andover, so we headed up, and the minute we were up on Route 120 and looking down at the valley, we just fell in love with it. So we ended up staying and raising our sons there, so now it's that time where we're wanting to give back. We've had a good life and it's because of the school."



The Way I See It

BY SHARON BOUCHARD

From the TWISI archives:

I have never been a very superstitious person nor have I believed that there is some kind of a spirit dwelling within inanimate objects. However, I have recently started to rethink that point of view when it comes to my car.

I have been driving for many years and have owned several cars. I have had cars I like a lot because of the way they handled, comfort, design and especially durability. I've had some cars that I didn't like all that much because they didn't live up to some or all of those qualities. But, I never had a car that I thought was jinxed until now.

There is nothing outstanding about my Buick Century; it looks like a million other cars. It looks pretty good, it handles well and it's pretty comfortable to drive, but I still think it's jinxed.

I have never in my life had to file an insurance claim for an accident until I got this Buick. The first claim came about when my front bumper got a little too intimate with a snow bank a couple of winters ago. The second claim came about when someone backed into the driver's side door while I was stopped at a red light. The third, and I hope final claim, was due to someone wiping out my previously replaced front bumper when they ran a red light.

I guess I should be grateful that all three accidents were minor and involved no injury to anyone and two out of three were not my fault. But the rate of accidents has had me thinking about this car a little differently than any others that I have owned.

I have actually given this car a name, but it is one that I cannot repeat in this column. I thought myself a little odd for not only naming the car, but also addressing it by that name when I start it up each morning. Then I read something in the paper last week that set my mind somewhat at ease.

In a little item entitled

"Fun Facts For Car Lovers" it said 27% of car owners name their car. Probably most of those names have a little more affectionate connotation than what I named my car.

What I found more interesting than the amount of people who named their automobiles was the fact that 4% of the people polled were themselves named after automobiles. That is just plain strange.

I have been trying to remember the various car names to see if I could come up with one that would readily adapt to the name of a child, but I have to admit that I am a bit stumped. Mercedes is the only one

one sang in their car. It is, in fact, the only place that I am allowed to sing and only when I'm alone.

According to the survey 54% have kissed in a car, 26% were told they were loved for the first time in a car and 10% of the people surveyed got engaged in a car. I have a sneaking suspicion that the people surveyed were not from the baby boomer generation like myself, or those percentages would have been a whole heck of a lot higher.

And that leads me to wonder if the younger generation goes parking at all. I realize that it was a very long time ago that I was a teenager and I know a lot has changed since then, but if that survey had been taken among people in my age group I think you would see that 54% nearly double.

The pollsters found that 4% of the people questioned had given birth in a car. I'm pretty sure if the question of how many babies had been conceived in a car had been asked they would have no doubt been told it was none of their business. But, going back to my youthful years again, I bet that would have been a pretty high percentage too.

The remainder of the survey showed that 38% had cars that were part of a wedding. They didn't elaborate as to what the part was and since I assume just about everyone leaves their wedding in a car, it does make me wonder what other part a car would play.

Another fact that I thought was on the low side was 34% of the people had made a life decision in a car. My husband and I made the decision to buy our current home in the car shortly after having viewed it for the second time. I would guess a lot of others have done that too.

These little facts are kind of fun, but they don't change the fact that I think my car is jinxed. I'll bet there are other people who think that too and the way I see it, that would be a very interesting fact to find out.

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Clyde the tracking dog a hit at AES

BY TERRY KARKOS,
SUN MEDIA

Thirty-five students in grades kindergarten through five at Andover Elementary School were thrilled when two Maine Game Wardens from "North Woods Law" visited them recently.

The children had recently written a letter to Warden Brock Clukey of Andover asking if he would like to visit and answer questions they had about the Warden Service and Animal Planet's hit show about game wardens on the job in Maine.

"It was so cute," Dee Nadeau, student council adviser, said of the letter. "One of the things they wrote was, 'If you want to bring the movie crew, you can bring them, too.'"

To honor the debut Maine Game Warden Day, student council officials told the children it was OK to wear camouflage and hunter orange clothing all day. It was their last day of school before vacation week.

Clukey arrived with fellow warden and show cast member Norm Lewis, who brought his tracking dog Clyde. The 6-year-old black Lab patiently sat in front of Lewis or snoozed on the floor during the question-and-answer session.

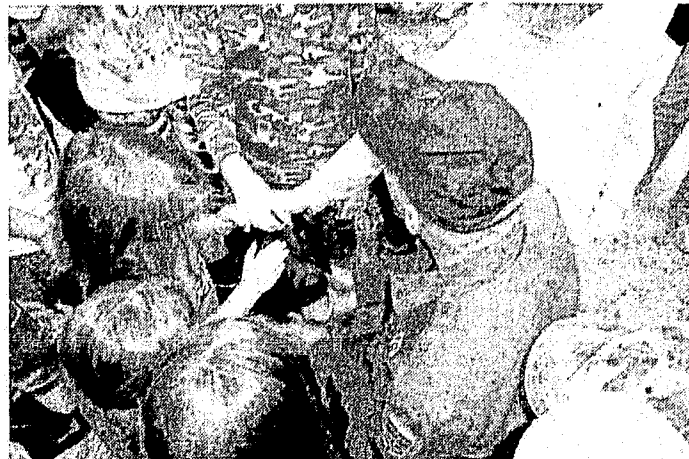
School officials had the children write questions for Clukey on index cards, which he pulled out of a basket and read. Both men answered the questions, two of which asked how long they'd been a game warden in Maine and what wild animals are their favorites.

Lewis said 27 years, and deer and turkey; Clukey answered 19 years, and deer and moose.

Another question asked how many people they had saved.



Andover Elementary School first-grader Hayley Smith watches Maine Game Warden Norm Lewis' tracking dog, Clyde, in action during a demonstration of his abilities. T. Karkos



Maine Game Warden Norm Lewis and his tracking dog, Clyde, are surrounded by students from Andover Elementary School. Lewis gave them a demonstration of the dog's ability to find two empty shotgun shells placed in the softball field. T. Karkos

"I don't know anymore," Lewis said. Neither did Clukey, before telling them about the service's search-and-rescue efforts in the woods and on the Appalachian Trail.

"We look for lost people that are lost in the woods and we also rescue people who are injured out in the woods," he said.

Prior to Clyde's demonstrations, Lewis said he uses Clyde to find evidence in outdoor crime scenes, such as the illegal killing of wildlife.

"Most of the time, people do that with guns and they will leave evidence behind, such as the bullets or empty shell casings. Clyde is very good at finding them. Those can be matched back to the guns, which can be matched back to the people, and that's how we solve crimes," he said.

"The other thing I ask Clyde to do—probably the most important thing—is I ask Clyde to find people," Lewis said.

And then it was Clyde's turn to shine. While Clyde and Lewis were inside, Clukey took the children outside and led his daughter in a circuitous walk around and through the school grounds. He hid her in some brush behind trees. He also dropped two empty shotgun shells in the softball field.

Lewis brought Clyde out and let the dog smell the girl's jacket. Off went Clyde, pulling Lewis along the child's trail, amazing the children and teachers how fast he picked it up. When he found the girl, the children erupted in applause and Lewis rewarded Clyde with a ball to play with.

He also had Clyde demonstrate how he finds evidence by walking with him into the softball field to search for the shotgun shells. Clyde eventually found both shells, laying on the lawn each time to indicate it.

"The kids loved it," Nadeau said of the session. "They loved Clyde. He was amazing. I think he amazed all the kids with his skills. And now they know what to do if they're ever lost in the woods. They know to stay put so the dog can find them."

"So that's what's important," she said. "Spring vacation is coming, and the kids are going to be out, so it's a good learning lesson for them."

Police: Bethel woman used heroin in front of infant

BY CHRISTOPHER
CROSBY, SUN MEDIA

Police said a Bethel woman faces multiple felony drug charges for trafficking heroin while in the presence of her infant daughter.

Morgan McKinney, 19, appeared in Oxford County Superior Court Monday on charges of aggravated trafficking in scheduled drugs, conspiracy, hindering apprehension and endangering the welfare of a child.

According to an affidavit by Maine Drug Enforcement Agent Tony Milligan, for over a year McKinney purchased heroin from a dealer in southern Maine. She and her boyfriend, Brandon Blood, resold it in Oxford County, using the proceeds to pay for new supplies. Milligan said McKinney was addicted to heroin and seeking Suboxone, a prescription drug used to medicate withdrawal.

In February, agents from

the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency raided apartments the couple shared in Woodstock and Bethel after Blood allegedly sold heroin to a police informant. Agents seized over 10 grams of heroin, digital scales and other evidence, Milligan said.

The Bethel apartment is within 1,000 feet of Crescent Park Elementary School in Bethel, raising the severity of the offense to aggravated.

Blood was arrested around the time of the raid and charged with three counts of unlawful trafficking in scheduled drugs and aggravated trafficking. At the time, police were told by McKinney that she was "minimally involved," and they focused the investigation on Blood, Milligan said. She was not arrested at the time.

Later, after setting up a sting operation to intercept their drug dealer, Milligan said McKinney tipped off the other party, spoiling the ruse.

According to the affidavit, the couple sent over \$50,000 via money-wiring services to two Saco residents between January 2014 and February 2015. One, Del Hathaway, was arrested on the Maine Turnpike in York on April 17 on a charge of importing a large quantity of heroin from Lynn, Mass., Milligan said.

While most of the money was sent by Blood, Milligan said McKinney accompanied him to wire the funds and made at least one solo transfer.

According to Milligan, Hathaway told police in an interview after his arrest that McKinney told him not to come to the heroin transaction because police would be there to arrest him, that she occasionally made trips by herself to restock, and on some occasions the couple brought their two-year-old daughter with them and consumed heroin in her presence.

"...McKinney and Blood routinely consumed heroin in front of her infant child without a sober caretaker to watch over the child, seriously endangering the child's life and welfare," Milligan said.

McKinney was released from jail on a Maine Pretrial Services contract, which supervises the release of defendants while their court case is pending. She is prohibited from having contact with her daughter or Blood.

Blood is scheduled to make a court appearance in May, and McKinney in July.

Legendary

Continued from page 1

Upton, where Lydia was raising the couple's three young children and striving to keep the family farm going.

Working with Civil War history buff Gary Fuller of Locke's Mills, who has been transcribing the Richardses' letters for the Maine Historical Society, Davis created the stage drama.

Fuller was responsible for casting the play, which features Roddy Royer as Stephen Richards, Lake Templeton as Lydia, and Corinne Nivus as Lizzie Richards, the couple's nine-year-old daughter, who, like her mother, wrote letters to the absent Stephen.

There are also several non-speaking parts, including the Richardses' two young sons, who appear in the scenes that take place in the family's Upton farmhouse.

Away at war, Stephen will be joined by a pair of Civil War re-enactors in full uniform as he writes home from the war encampment.

Passages from the letters are interspersed with narration, read by Lenny Hoy.

"The narrative weaves a timeline that lets the audience know what was going on in the Bethel area, in the Civil War in general, and in history" at the time the letters were being written, Davis said, adding that "any words that come out of the actors' mouths are from the actual letters."

Stephen provided few details about the war in his letters, writing instead of his acute homesickness and his concerns about his family and farm. Would Lydia be able to get the hay cut and stored? Would he make it home in time for the spring planting?

In turn, Lydia wrote to her husband about the children, about daily life back home, and about the hardship and

worry of being solely responsible for the farm.

The Richardses were a deeply spiritual family. Stephen taught Sunday School at home in Upton, and both he and Lydia relied on their faith to see them through hardship.

At times during the writing of her letters, Lydia became depressed and overwhelmed. Then, she told Stephen, she would pause in her writing, set the letter aside, and turn to the Bible, seeking comfort and strength in scripture.

Davis gleaned information about specific events, battles, and troop movement for his narrative by mining the reports of the Adjutant General of the 30th Maine Regiment.

For details about events in the Bethel area during the time the letters were being written, he relied on former BHS Executive Director Stanley Howe's essay, "Bethel in the Civil War."

A Bethel native and a retired minister of music, Davis spent most of his career working in large churches in Springfield, Illinois and Pittsburgh, but, he said, "I always knew I'd end up back here."

He returned full time in 2013, when he and his wife moved into a timber frame home they had built on family land in Albany.

Davis joined the board of trustees of the Bethel Library Association, and soon found himself deeply involved in the collaborative "Local and Legendary" project.

"I was a little overwhelmed when I learned what I'd gotten myself into," he admitted, but a two-day training session for grant recipients, held at Bowdoin College, reassured him.

"For a person who has no history or Civil War background, I've gotten completely sucked in," he said.

The May 17 event is free and open to the public.

Bethel

By Nancy Brown



This Sunday, May 3, there is a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels at the American Legion Hall on the Gore Road in Locke's Mills. The event is from 2 to 5 p.m. and will feature live music by the Shadagee Ramblers, a 50/50 raffle, other raffles and snacks. Meals on Wheels, through SeniorsPlus in our area, provides meals to older adults who are homebound and cannot cook for themselves. Currently Meals on Wheels doesn't have enough money to provide food for more than 100 people who are on the waiting list in Oxford, Androscoggin, and Franklin counties. The federal government cut Maine's funding for Meals on Wheels by \$18,000 this year; that equates to 3,500 meals. SeniorsPlus has been fundraising trying to fill that gap. Maine ranks highest in New England and 11th in the country for senior citizens who experience food insecurity, which means not having access to a reliable source of food. Hopefully, this fundraiser will enable Meals on Wheels to increase the number of people served. Tickets are \$10 at the door; \$8 in advance. If you can't come to the fundraiser, but want to make a donation, you can call 800-427-1241.

Recently SeniorsPlus has

OCSO Patrol Log

Tuesday, April 21

At 3:04 p.m. Deputy Chris Davis responded to Woodstock for a break-in on the Farnum Road. The incident was under investigation.

At 11:19 p.m. Deputy Steve Witham conducted a motor vehicle stop on Mason Street in Bethel. The driver was summonsed for possession of a usable amount of marijuana.

Thursday, April 23

At 7:47 a.m. a report was received of a camp being broken into on Hutchinson Pond in Albany, with nothing stolen. Deputy Steve Witham was assigned.

At 8:30 a.m. a Bethel resident reported criminal mischief to his pickup truck on Songo Pond Road. Sgt. Tim Holland was assigned.

Saturday, April 26

At 5:48 a.m. Deputy Steve Witham responded to a report of a noise complaint at a Main Street business in Bethel. Both parties were spoken to.

At 9:48 a.m. a report was received of items stolen from an unlocked vehicle on the Intervale Road in Bethel. Deputy Mike Halacy responded and the case was under investigation.

At 9:45 p.m. Sgt. Matt Baker responded to Church Street in Bethel to investigate criminal mischief and possibly theft.

Sunday, April 27

At 4:49 a.m. Deputy Steve Witham responded with local fire departments to a report of a house fire on Rowe Hill Road in Greenwood.

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Telstar High School student John Walker job shadowed Craig Miller at WGME Channel 13 in Portland during the school's recent Career Week. He is shown here (center) with (from left) David Eid, Adrienne Stein, Gregg Laugerquist and Craig Miller. Submitted photo

partnered with local libraries to provide Books on Wheels for homebound adults. The Meals on Wheels delivery drivers pick up the books (or DVDs, audio books, or magazines) from the libraries, deliver them to program participants, and then return the books to the library. Both the Bethel Library and Norway Memorial Library participate in this program.

Richard Blanco, 2013 inaugural poet, author, and storyteller, is speaking tomorrow night, May 1, at 7 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church in Norway. The church is located at 205 Main Street. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Norway Memorial Library and Books N Things in Norway. The presentation will be followed by a reception and book signing.

The wildflowers are still hesitant to pop out. There have been too many cold nights; it was cold enough for snow flurries last Friday and Saturday. Of course, it's still possible that we could see another snowstorm. The latest spring snowstorm that I remember was on May 11 when I was in the sixth grade.

Most people look to ice out

in the ponds as a sign of winter's end and the beginning of spring. I look up to Mt. Abram to see if the snow is gone yet. My grandmother, Eva Swan, lived in the shadow of Mt. Abram most of her life. She told her children that it was not spring and they could not go barefoot until all the snow was gone from Mt. Abram. As of today's writing (April 26) I can still see snow on the mountain from my living room window.

I did find blossoming periwinkle (also called purple myrtle or creeping myrtle) on April 26. This beautiful light purple flower is a native of Europe and is called invasive in some flower books. It was imported as a ground cover. In her book Spring Wildflowers of New England, Marilyn Dwellley says, "This tiny trailing plant has escaped from gardens and cemeteries and is now found in woods in masses as a 'wild flower.'" Despite its origins, like Ms. Dwellley, I put it on my wildflower list. The plant has beautiful evergreen leaves and the blossoms will last into the summer.

If you have news to share, please e-mail me at brownnancy1950@gmail.com, or

call me at 824-2483,

Bethel

By Donald G. Bennett



On driving into Bethel Kathy and I remarked how nicely Bethel's "gateway" appearance has been improved by Bob Chadbourne's thinning of his pine stand near Alder River. It would be nice to see a historic sign installed there about the part Alder River played in logging drives of the late 19th Century. Some of the old news items read: 1888: The main drive on the Androscoggin River passed through town on Saturday, May 19. Bethel's "drive HQ" camped at the mouth of Alder River. 1889: Six white tents at the mouth of Alder River signaled the presence of the river drivers. C.F. Aller in charge of Brown and Wilson's drive and C.W. McPherson with the Androscoggin Water Power Company's logs have the rear near Bethel village. And 1891: The rain Saturday and Monday gave a good driving pitch to the Androscoggin River. Mr. Allen foreman of the Bearce & Wilson drives pitched his tents near the

mouth of the Alder River, Monday night. Often you'd hear of the locals coming to check out how good the drive cook's skills were and usually they got some free samples.

Family Dollar Store Progress

The future Family Dollar store site is cleared, the former Douglass house is gone and the earth work of leveling the lot seems complete. It is sad in a way to see the old Douglass place removed. Back in the 1940s, Fred and Olive Douglass were the Lucien Roberge and Donnie Katlin of today. I remember one time when Olive came to our farm searching for the location of a water leak in the Mayville line. Her leak detecting instrument was an old telephone ear piece with what looked like a thin spike where the cord attached. She went to a water pipe in our milk room, put the spike end of her device on the water pipe and then put her ear to the ear piece like listening to the telephone.

Behind the Douglass's house in the pines Frankie Boyker had a camp sized house and a small barn. He raised calves for veal. We took most of our bull calves to him so I got to know him quite well. Frankie always had stories to tell which made my trip worthwhile. Family Dollar will not wipe out these memories but it sure changes the scene.

Bethel Therapy Center
Bethel Therapy Center is a new service with an office in the Bear Crossing building in Mayville (across the road from our house). Its sign indicates that it is part of the Central Maine Clinical Associates. Last week it was open only two days and I missed getting more information. The entrance sign specifies physical therapy is the specialty.

Our Geese

When Hays and I go for our morning walk during this early geese season, it is usually good for some laughs. In mid-week there were only four geese in the Thurston field that has two ponds right now. When we first met them on our walk two were swimming in the pond and the other two had guard duty. When the geese see Hays they go on full alert. As we walked by their pond, the guards followed along behind us and talking to each other, making sure we were leaving their area. Later in

the week a flock of about 30 geese were down in the lower part of the field.

Progress on the Cho Sun expansion: With the Cho Sun's new porch and wing expansion, it looks more and more like an impressive relative of the Sudbury Inn as far as its architecture is concerned. Along with the former Purington house these three buildings should be impressive to any new passersby along this section of Main Street.

New House in Birch Wood

When we left for Florida, the newest house in Birch Wood was still being closed in. The crew was scrambling to get it roofed and closed in to beat the winter weather. This house has one of the best west facing lots in the development and its sunset exposure will be something. The sunny side of this new place has 16 windows facing the west and some of the 16 have two to four panes.

News photos at The Bethel Journals: Facebook.

East Bethel

By Wally Ritz



As I am writing this on Monday late afternoon, the sun is finally coming out a bit. Bought some pansies today to add some color in the yard and also help me feel like it really is spring.

Arlene Harrington told me that her granddaughter from Surry had visited from April 7 through the 10th. They had a great time together. If you happen to see Arlene on May 3, please be sure to wish her a Happy 29th Birthday. Myself, I will say, "Happy Birthday, Arlene, you are an inspiration and always love talking to you. I hope you have a wonderful day and wish you many more happy returns." Can the historians please help me figure out if she indeed is the "youngest" person in East Bethel?

Last Friday Linda Olson went to Windham to watch three of her grandsons play baseball. Connor, Griffin and Garret play on the Falmouth High School Varsity team. It was a double header on this very frigid Friday, thus we can say for sure that they did win the first game. Congratulations. Soon I will have news on what is happening with Neil's baseball team so stay tuned.

As a reminder, this Sunday, May 3, the Shadagee Ramblers will be playing at the Locke's Mills Legion Hall on the Gore Road from 2 to 5 p.m. It is a benefit dance to help support "Meals on Wheels." Please do go and support this good cause and at the same time kick up your heels and enjoy the good music.

Also, why not take advantage of the big sale going on at the InnSide Shop? Am happy for my friends, Marcia and Laurence, for their new journey together. Sadly, it also ends a chapter in my life. I will miss them very much for they were there for me in hard times and wish we could spend more of the good times together also.

As always, call me at 507-1008 or e-mail heinrichcracker@gmail.com to give me news, questions, answers to the Trivia... or to let me know when I messed up, ha-ha-ha.

Have a great week.

Bryant Pond

By Alice Hoyt



Franklin Grange 124 met on Monday evening, April 20, at the Grange Hall for a regular meeting. A report was given on the Basket Making and Lunch that was held on Saturday, April 18. Next meeting will be the Zucchini Bread Contest. Don't forget the Mock Hee-Haw Show to be held Saturday, May 2 at 7 p.m. Many of our favorite musicians. Refreshments on sale, door prizes, 50/50. Peter and Bert are to see if they can fix the corner pole on the porch. Next meeting is May 4.

Sympathy is extended to Marcel Polak and family on the loss of his mother. Also to Mitch Maddock and family on the loss of his mother.

The Woodstock-Greenwood Senior Citizens will meet on Thursday, May 7 at the Locke's Mills Church at 11:30 for a meeting with dinner put on by the Ladies Circle and program by Valerie Billings.

The Woodstock Historical Society will meet on May 9 at 6 p.m.

Services at the Baptist Church are Sunday School at 9:15, Morning Worship at 10:30, Evening Service at 6 p.m. Wednesday evening at 6:30 is Mid-Week Service. Bloom for girls 13 to 18 and

Civil War

Continued from page 4

think it really gives a real cross-section about what was thought of Lincoln."

Howe agreed with an audience member, saying that Lincoln grew into the presidency with no resources after overcoming a terrible childhood and "made so much of it."

"It's incomprehensible what he must have had to go through (during his presidency through the Civil War) if you look at the numbers of casualties," Norman Clanton of Bethel said. "You can't comprehend those numbers."

"From the way he looked in 1861 to 1865, the war aged him terribly," Howe said.

Others in the audience, including Paul Frederic of Starks, shared their connections with Lincoln and the Civil War.

Frederic, a retired geography professor from the Uni-

versity of Maine at Farmington, said he attended the society program in memory of his wife Elizabeth who passed away in January.

Elizabeth Frederic shared a birthday with Lincoln and Charles Darwin. While not a Lincoln scholar, she was a big fan, her husband said.

He said his wife had been to Ford's Theater where Lincoln was assassinated. "She was into Lincoln long before she ran across me."

Frederic said he has a personal connection to the Civil War in that four brothers of his great-grandfather Peter Frederic served with the 9th Maine, which specialized in siege warfare.

Of the brothers, Llewellyn Frederic was killed during the Siege of Richmond on Sept. 29, 1864. Sept. 29 is Paul Frederic's birthday. Martin Frederic emerged from the

war as a Lieutenant; Cushman Frederic died soon after the war of deteriorating health from it; and the fourth was William Frederic.

Paul Frederic said his wife Liz in 2006 "insisted we do the Lincoln Trail," which is the exact route traveled by Abraham Lincoln from Kentucky to Illinois.

"So we took a lengthy vacation from Lincoln's cabin to his tomb," Frederic said. "I had grown to respect that man more than I would have any other way and I really feel for him and what he did for our country."

Frederic said he'd never seen Saturday's film, but said it adeptly revealed how Lincoln changed "from a ragtag kid out in the Midwest who was self-educated to probably our greatest president, and he's to be admired."



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D. Bennett

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Foundations for guys 15 and up. If you missed the Bloom concert on Sunday evening, April 19, you missed a great service. The girls did a very good job.

Gilead

By Lin Chapman



The last day of April has arrived. Now we will find out if all those April showers have brought some May flowers. I have seen a few postings on Facebook of a few people who have had some flowers appear, but so far, all I have seen are a few iris plants. They are peaking though the leaves from last year that have not been raked yet due to all the wet weather.

My brother, Steve McLain, stopped by the house last Saturday. He brought my raffle tickets for the painting that the Bethel Senior Citizen Club is raffling off in a couple of months. The painting is of the Portland Headlight and was painted by my niece, Marina McLain. Marina is the daughter of Stephen and "Peachy" McLain and the granddaughter of Steve and Lise McLain.

Last Saturday, Hugh and I went to the Granite State Outdoor Show in Berlin, N.H. We met up with Michele Chapman and Sidney there. Last fall, Tim shot an 8-point buck and he had it mounted by Brian Emerson of Groveton, N.H. Michele brought the deer to the show because they were doing Antler and Skull Scoring for the New Hampshire record books. Tim's deer scored a 146 4/8 perfect typical. There is a bamboo bush behind the house and since the dried stalks are still there from last year, there are a lot of little birds that gather there. The stalks give the birds cover during the winter. When the fresh bamboo comes up in the spring, the birds have a better place to hide. A couple of years ago, there was a catbird that built a nest in there. I was watching the chickadees, sparrows and juncos that were hopping around, and they appeared to be searching for bugs.

While watching the birds, I noticed movement near the little building at the end of the back lawn. The woodchuck has finally come out to search for food. There is usually one there in the

spring, but he/she doesn't hang around since we do not have any luscious vegetables for dinner.

I have not been feeling well for the past couple of weeks and after a visit to the doctor, I found out that I have bronchitis. Bob and Judy Bishop made a quick stop at the house last Sunday with an actual dooryard visit. They wanted to drop off some material while they were in the area, but did not want to bother me since I was not feeling well. They also dropped off a couple of coffee mugs they had picked up while at the Samoset Resort a few weeks ago. There was a gathering of the Maine Game Wardens going on at the Resort that they got to attend. The mugs have the Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Warden logo on them. We immediately put them to use with a nice cup of tea. Thanks to Bob and Judy!

Got any news? Call 836-2987 or e-mail chapman@hotmail.com.

Hanover

By Maria Holloway



Have you heard and seen Hanover's signs of Spring? Foxes roam seeking food.

Moose meander over Howard Pond Road and up Baby Brook Lane. Deer graze in open field. Barred owls hoot "who-cooks-for-you?" Hawks soar and screech and flushing grouse startle passersby in wooded habitats. Robins patrol grassy knolls for early worms and pileated woodpeckers rat-a-tat-tat on high. Elusive bears dash on by and ravens give their raspy call. Welcome spring!

One certain sign of the season is the faithful return of the snowbirds. The first seen are John and Louise Morton having returned from their Florida winter getaway. They enjoyed catching up with friends, Paul and Lynne Ramsey, at GRML this past Saturday. Welcome back, John and Louise.

The Library has recently acquired an inventory of Hanover T-shirts and sweatshirts for purchase, in both adult and children's sizes. There are a variety of screened graphics and messages about our beloved town. Proceeds from the sale of the shirts will benefit the



DII BAND PARTICIPANTS-Fifth Grade students from the Woodstock Elementary School and the Crescent Park School, as well as sixth graders from Telstar Middle School, recently participated in the District II Band event. Pictured are, from left: Mari Colby, Hannah Pierce, Marley Ayotte, Utah Bean, Emalee Coffin, Grace Boothby and Madisyn Bean. Submitted Photo

Library. The supply is limited so do stop to lay your claim! The Library is open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Keith Crockett-Harrington recently returned from what he enthusiastically called "an awesome experience" in Roundup, Mont., where he spent the better part of a week job-shadowing for his school's Career Week. Currently in his junior year at Telstar, Keith spent four days learning about the automotive industry at Elite Tune and Lube. (Roundup is a coal mining town just outside of Billings, Mont., and is surrounded by the Rocky Mountains.) Keith enjoyed exploring auto mechanics as a possible future career choice.

Town Clerk, Kelly Harrington and Deputy Clerk, Ellie Andrews recently returned from Augusta where they attended a day of intensive training for another of the Town's recently installed computer module. This most recent one records and files the Town's Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates.

The Town Office staff is currently preparing to replace two old existing safes with one new safe that will secure all of the Town's important records, documents and other valuables. Anyone interested in purchasing the old safes should contact the Town Office prior to May 8. The one antique safe will be appraised for fair market value and will be available for purchase as well.

Got news, questions comments? E-mail HanoverMe-News@gmail.com.

Locke's Mills

By Amy Wight Chapman



Reminder: there will be an open seat on the SAD 44 School Board to be filled at Town Meeting on May 16. Please let Town Manager Kim Sparks know if you are interested in this important position.

Jane Chandler reported from her vantage point, on the north end of the pond, that the ice went out of North Pond on the morning of Friday, April 24 this year. Jane was out in her kayak with her dog, Sandy, just a few hours later, navigating around a few small leftover ice floes.

Three years ago, I went for my first kayak paddle of the year on March 24, but ice-out was uncommonly early that year. I thought it would be late this year after such a long, cold winter, but I think April 24 is just about average.

Tony, Will and I went to Gould Academy on Thursday evening to hear the visiting poet, Rachel McKibbens, who worked with Gould students and faculty as part of the Richard Blanco Visiting Writers Series and Retreat. She is a talented poet and performer who advocates for mental health awareness,

gender equality, and domestic violence victims through her work. As you might expect, her subject matter makes listeners think and takes them outside of their comfort zone - a good thing for all of us now and then!

On Friday, Tony and I joined fellow North Pond property-owners Jim and

Jane Chandler (who also represents the Woodstock Conservation Commission), Arnie Jordan, and my brother Steve Wight to take a look at a possible boat launch site, the Summer property on Route 26, with engineer and former AVCOG staff member Ferg Lea. Although the site is not ideal, there is still some hope that it can be made to work.

My son Will and I attended the Bethel Historical Society's program, "Lincoln and the Civil War," on Saturday. There was an excellent documentary film and discussion, as well as an opportunity to see items on loan from a private collection, including letters signed by Lincoln, photos and even wildflowers that he picked and preserved shortly before his death.

On Sunday, the three of us went to the West Paris Unitarian Universalist church, where Rev. Kate Braestrup performed the service. She is the chaplain of the Maine Warden Service and the author of several books, including her best-selling memoir, Here If You Need Me. She is a wonderful speaker - warm, funny, and a joy to listen to.

So it's been a busy few days! Jeff and Doreen Johnson attended Papermaker, a

\$3.00 Movie Tickets with the purchase of any entree.

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play by Mexico native Monica Wood, at Portland Stage Company on Sunday, and Doreen reported that they both loved it. Based on Ms. Wood's book of short stories, *Ernie's Ark*, it takes place in 1989 during a labor strike in a paper mill town and is described as "a revealing drama about family, loyalty, and the quiet tragedies of mill-town life." I have tickets to see it with the members of my writing group in a couple of weeks, and I'm really looking forward to it.

I was happy to see that the Citizen is going to be running some of Colista Morgan's old Greenwood City columns in the paper, as space allows. When I was growing up in Connecticut in the early 1970s, I wrote to Mrs. Morgan to tell her how much I enjoyed her columns, and we became pen-pals. I sent her many long letters, along with my bad adolescent poetry, which she told me many years later that she had always kept. She always remembered my birthday, and used to send me homemade peanut butter fudge at Christmas.

E-mail your news to amy.w.chapman@gmail.com or call 875-5511 (leave a message).

Mason

By Richard Grover



Mona and I went to Tracy and Monica Gordon's recently to celebrate Boston's 15th birthday. The Gordons live on Hunt's Corner Road. Being mud season, their driveway is quite muddy. As we approached their driveway, I saw the mud and wanted to drive past and park along the side of the road, but two vehicles were close behind me, so I decided to turn in to avoid possibly getting rear-ended on the road. The mud wasn't bad on the left side of the driveway, so I parked there. After we arrived, Monica arrived in her car followed by Carrie and Neal in their car, both of which parked behind us.

Later, as we prepared to leave, Monica and Neal/Carrie pulled ahead of our car so we could back back to the paved road. I started backing slowly in order to make sure not to hit Jane's car parked at the end of the driveway on the edge of the pavement. As I backed up, the right tire sank into a shallow hole and started spinning. I was stuck! Several people came out and tried to push us backward, but the right front tire continued to spin (I think because we had front wheel drive the pushers lifted the front slightly, reducing traction). I decided to call AAA for a tow job before we got

in any deeper. Carrie and Neal couldn't get out until we moved our car!

When the tow truck arrived about an hour later, I asked the driver if he would stay after he got our car out in case Neal had trouble. He agreed to do that, as Carrie & Neal also had AAA coverage. The tow truck pulled us out with no trouble because the Prius has a hook under the rear trunk made for this purpose. Neal attempted to turn his car around so he could drive forward to the road. Bad move, because he got the front end of the car stuck in the deeper mud with the car crossway in the driveway! The tow truck driver got a bit irritated, and we headed for home before we could see how their "tow job" went.

A day or two later, as I took Shiloh for a walk past our still frozen small irrigation pond, Shiloh spied a pair of mallard ducks in the small area of open water at the shallow end of the pond. Shiloh was ahead of me when he saw the ducks, and he started across the ice toward the ducks at full tilt. When he got about halfway across the ice, it turned to slush, and Shiloh plunged into the icy water, splashing all the way! He turned toward me and began furiously clawing at the ice with his front paws. While I was contemplating whether I needed to try to assist (Something I was not eager to do because of the icy water), Shiloh struggled up onto the ice. He immediately jumped ashore and took off at a furious pace in the direction directly away from the ducks! He calmed down shortly, and we continued our walk while Shiloh showed no more interest in the ducks, still calmly sitting on the water.

Neury

By Doug Webster



At last week's selectboard meeting, Doug Jones, from Cross Excavation, was there to carry specifics in the 3-year winter/summer road machine contract. The bids are due on May 5, 2015, and there will be a special town meeting on May 19, 2015, at 6 p.m. to discuss and vote on approval. This is the first year that the town has done a summer/winter contract together. The biggest surprise of the night that wasn't on the agenda was the reduction of the tax rate charged to all quarter-share owners at the Summit and Grand Jordan hotels. After a brief discussion, the two selectmen present, which were chair Gary Wight and Jim Largess, voted unanimously to give the quarter-share owners a 25 percent reduction in

their tax rate. The quarter-share owners had already gotten a 40 percent reduction in 2009. So the high rise quarter-share owners have now gotten a 65 percent tax reduction. I don't recall anybody else in the town getting a tax rate reduction. It seems the condo owners could have waited until the towns re-evaluations which should happen within the next couple of years. The quarter-share owner tax bias, with the town's already low mill rate, doesn't seem to add up to a lot of money. With the figures the town administrator gave, the tax bias doesn't add up to more than a couple hundred dollars, point being that it's not the tax rate that is pinching the owners it sounds like it's the condo fees, so before they come to the town for a tax break, one would think that the condo association would work with the owners that can't afford the fees, and give them some relief.

The other problem with the vote for this tax rate reduction is that one of the two selectmen, Jim Largess, is on the board for both hotels, and also works for Sunday River, which has a direct working relationship with the hotel in question. It appears to be a blatant conflict of interest. The vote should be rescinded and brought up again when they have a full board present. That way Mr. Largess can do the right thing, and step down.

The state has given the Newry withdrawal committee an extension until June 15, 2015 to work out a proposal with SAD 44.

South Woodstock

By Lolalee Dillingham



Monday, April 27, 9:35 a.m. Good morning, y'all. Forty-two degrees here this a.m., the sun is trying to make an appearance through the heavy cloud cover, blue skies off to the south and east of us and yes, that darned ole wind is blowing.

We are off to entertain the residents in Rumford this afternoon and so looking forward to seeing each of them. Condolences to the families of Weda (Cookie) Murch, Randy F. Millett, Dot K. McAllister, Betsy Lenberg, Carol Farrar, Mark E. Vail, Raymond J. Walker, Sr. and Bobby Hall. Our thoughts and many prayers to each family member.

Craig, April, Yogi and I drove to Strong (The White Elephant Country Store) on Saturday evening to enjoy an evening of listening to "Off The Hill Band" and to enjoy their delicious Prime Rib special. It was a great evening seeing and visiting with friends from Farmington, Jay, Livermore, Kingfield and surrounding areas.

Mark your calendars for May 9. The Relay for Life Crafter and Vendor Fair hosted by friends from 9 a.m. to 12 noon will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church, in South Paris.

My hummingbirds and orioles have not arrived as yet, their feeders are out and already for them; most all the other spring birds have arrived. And oh, by the way, the peepers are out and they are filling the night air with their song. We have some in the bog just below our home, and I so love hearing them.

We stopped by to check out the ice cream at "The Scoop" last week, the grape nut one is so far my favorite. Norman and Jeannie Millett were among the many enjoying some ice cream Sunday afternoon.

My all-time favorite is Orange-Pineapple and they do not have that as yet, so I have to continue to stop at Norway Soft Serve for that.

Belated birthday wishes to Peter Allen of the Hurricane Mountain Band.

The deer are enjoying the fresh grass that's greening up from the winter months and we are enjoying anywhere between four and seven deer each evening grazing in the back yard.

Celebrating May birthdays are Craig Moore, Gina Poland, Mary Anne Brown, Pam Mason, Jeff Hadley, Jessica Koskela, Susan Gunther, Kellie (Wing) Lima, Yvette LeBlanc, Mary Jane Newell, Charlotte Landers, Cara Billings, Jason Cannuli, Rick Henderson, Rick Blaquiere, Ronnie Heath, Lolalee Dillingham, Lorri Wilson, Bob Gleason, Glendon Hadley, Joe Newbert, Roni Grover, Sr., Perley Emery and Eric Parlin. Wishing each one a happy and wonderful day.

Anniversary wishes are going out to Jim and Pam Mason, Eric and Hope Hoyt and Larry and Elaine Wilday.

The Down East Country Music Association will be holding their annual election of officers for the coming year on Sunday, May 3 at the Silver Spur, Mechanic Falls (route 121).

For those of you who like to go camping and enjoy country music, the Maine Country Music Association will be holding their 25th Annual Hebron Pines campground jamboree on June 5 and 6. Camp and tent sites available, call Cindy or Dale at 966-2179. I will post more on this later in the month.

Yogi and I called on Jim and Chris Knights Sunday afternoon. It was a great day for a visit and it was so good seeing them both.

Yogi is looking forward to returning to work after having the winter off and construction is beginning to take hold after the long winter.

Well, that's all from the valley this week. Enjoy each day and stay well.

Upton

By Joe Bernier



Membership applications for the Upton Historical Society are trickling in very slowly. More members, more help and more involvement are needed for the Society to be able to continue to

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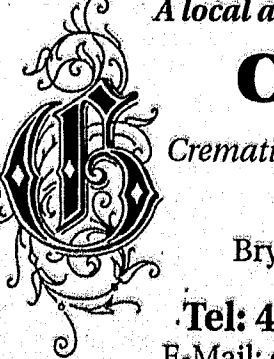
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Sports



High School JV Softball

Telstar 15, Mt. Valley 3; April 25 - THS JV Softball team opened their season this past Saturday in frigid playing conditions beating Mt. Valley 15-4. Tehya Johnson got the victory on the mound throwing the complete game allowing 4 runs on 5 hits, collecting 7 strike outs and giving up 0 walks. Johnson also led the offense with 3 hits including a triple and collecting 7 RBIs. Two hits on the game by Lisa Gammon as well as Emily Philbrick, and Jodi Putnam also had hits. The team shows good promise for future growth and did well in the cold and windy conditions. - Coach Mark Kenney

High School Track and Field

Track meet at Lisbon; April 28 - Gabi Stone won the 1,600 meter race and teammate Kaitlyn Brown finished third as the Rebel girls' team finished sixth in a meet at Lisbon. For the boys, Maverik Griffin won the 200- and 400-meters and the triple jump as the team placed fifth.

School Lunch Menu

SAD 44 School Lunches
April 30 through May 8
Elementary Schools

Thursday: Hot ham hoagie on a wholegrain roll or sun butter and fluff on a wholegrain roll with cheese stick, oven fries, baby carrots with dip, fresh quartered kiwi.

Friday: Fish bites with tartar sauce and seasoned pasta or peanut butter and fluff on wholegrain bread with cheese stick, cabbage slaw, fruit cup, graham cracker bites.

Monday: Popcorn chicken or hamburger on a wholegrain roll, rice pilaf, steamed broccoli with cheese sauce, baked beans, strawberry cup.

Tuesday: Cheese pizza or sun butter and jelly with cheese stick, pasta salad, applesauce, orange wedges, kids' snack mix.

Wednesday: Toasted cheese on wholegrain bread or Quick Pick with super pretzel, cheese stick and yogurt, goldfish crackers, carrots and celery, petite banana.

Thursday: Italian Dunks or hot dog in a roll, whole kernel corn, green salad, mixed fruit.

Friday: Italian sandwich or uncrustable sun butter sandwich and cheese stick, potato wedges, diced pears.

Telstar

Thursday: Cook's Choice, oven fries, baby carrots with dip, fresh quartered kiwi.

Friday: Cook's choice or pulled pork sandwich and seasoned pasta, cabbage slaw, fruit cup, graham cracker bites.

Monday: Popcorn chicken, rice pilaf, steamed broccoli with cheese sauce, baked beans, strawberry cup.

Tuesday: Cook's choice, pasta salad, applesauce, kids' snack mix.

Wednesday: Pasta choices, toasted cheese sandwich on borealis wholegrain bread, goldfish crackers, carrots and celery, petite banana.

Thursday: Italian dunks, hot dog in a roll, whole kernel corn, green salad, mixed fruit.

Friday: Cook's choice, potato wedges, diced pears.

*Available Daily: Hot and cold sandwiches, Quick Pick entrees, pizza, salads.

Waterford

By Rockie Graham



They keep saying it will be warm soon, but I am not so sure. Day after day I get up and it is not spring like temperatures. Even if it warms up later, early a.m. is still chilly, hard to jump out of bed and start the day. I guess that means I'm growing old. Dave blames it on the surgery, but the doc says no. I don't know myself. Soon that will be a thing of the past.

Now that earth day is past, it is still time to honor our mother earth. Raking and planting will soon be; raking is to come.

Thursday, April 30, John Howe will speak at CEBE 447 Main Street in Norway at 7 p.m. about the End of Fossil Energy and Per Capita Oil. John has done a lot of research on this and it should be a great talk. For more info, call CEBE at 739-2124.

Friday, May 1 at the UCC 205 Main Street in Norway, Richard Blanco will have a poetry reading and a talk entitled "Just Tell Me a Story: Writing a Memoir."

Monday, May 4, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Socrates' Café meets at the Waterford Library. The topic is: How Can We Achieve Social Equality. Scott Vlaun will be the moderator. Light refreshments will be served.

Monday, May 4, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Waterford Library, the knitting group will meet. All levels of knitters are welcome. Condolences go out to the family of Cyndy Tinsley and Frances Perlman. Frances passed last week at the age of 93. I was able to attend the memorial at the Perlman Cemetery in Woodstock.

My computer has a virus so if you e-mail me I probably won't get it. Just a warning. That is all for this week. Have a great week and stay warm.



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10 AM - 2 PM

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WHERE

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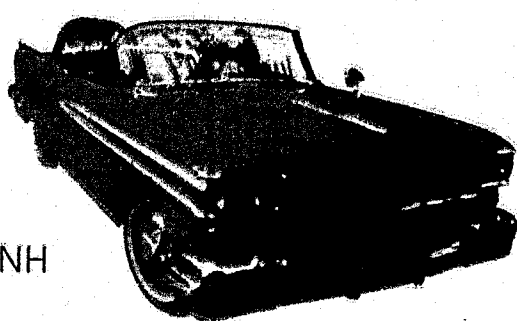
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APRIL 2015

Your Local Gardener

Spring LAWN & GARDEN

How to guarantee your garden starts off on the right foot

As winter slowly winds down, many gardeners cannot wait to soak up the springtime sun and get their hands dirty in the garden. Such excitement is not just good for gardeners, but can benefit the garden in the months to come as well.

Late winter or early spring is a great time to get a head start on the gardening season. Even if gardening season is still around the corner, completing the following projects can ensure your garden gets off on the right foot.

Clear debris

One of the best things you can do for your garden as winter winds down is to clear it of debris. Winter can be especially harsh on a landscape, and gardens left to the elements are often filled with debris once spring arrives. Dead leaves, fallen branches, rocks that surfaced during the winter frost, and even garbage that might have blown about in winter winds can all pile up in a garden over a typical winter. Clearing such debris likely won't take long, but it's a great first step toward restoring the garden before the time comes to plant and grow the garden once again.

Examine the soil

Soil plays a significant role in whether a garden thrives or struggles. Examining the soil before the season starts can help gardeners address any issues before they plant. Ignoring the soil until a problem arises can turn the upcoming gardening

season into a lost opportunity, so test the soil to determine if it has any nutrient or mineral deficiencies. This may require the help of a professional, but if a problem arises, you might be able to adjust the acidity or alkalinity of the soil and still enjoy a successful gardening season.

Another way to examine the soil is less complex but can shed light on when would be a good time to get back to work. Reach into the soil and dig out a handful. If the soil quickly crumbles, you can start preparing for gardening seasoning. But if the soil is still clumped together, it needs more time to dry out before you can begin your prep work.

Initiate edging

Edging is another task gardeners can begin as they get ready for the season. Edge plant and flower beds, but be sure to use a spade with a flat blade or an edger designed to edge flower beds. Such tools will cut deep enough so grass roots that may eventually grow into the flower bed are severed. Depending on how large a garden is, edging can be a time-consuming task, so getting a head start allows homeowners to spend more time planting and tending to their gardens once the season hits full swing.

Fight weeds

Though weeds likely have not survived the winter, that does not mean they won't return once the weather starts to heat up. But as inevitable as weeds may seem, homeowners can take steps to prevent them from turning beautiful gardens into battlegrounds where plants, flowers and vegetables are pitted against unsightly and potentially harmful weeds. Spring is a good time to apply a pre-emergent weed preventer, which can stop weeds before they grow. Though such solutions are not always foolproof, they can drastically reduce the likelihood of weed growth.

Though gardeners might not be able to start planting their gardens in late winter or early spring, they can still get outside and take steps to ensure their gardens thrive once planting season begins.

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WMSC sponsors Step Falls wildflower hike, potluck dinner

On Thursday, May 14, the Western Mountains Senior College will sponsor a nature hike at Step Falls in Newry and a pot-luck dinner at the Mahoosuc Mountain Lodge.

Lynne Zimmerman of Bethel will lead the leisurely one-mile hike to identify spring wildflowers and enjoy the waterfalls.

The group will meet at 4 p.m. at the parking area for the Step Falls Preserve, located on Route 26, seven miles north (toward Grafton Notch) from the corner of Route 2.

Hikers should wear appropriate footwear and bring a water bottle and insect repellent.

The 24-acre Step Falls Preserve, under the care of the Nature Conservancy since 1961, was donated to the Mahoosuc Land Trust in 2012.

The Land Trust has made significant improvements to the trail and parking area and provides local stewardship to protect the preserve's fragile vegetation while providing an ideal spot for family-friendly recreation.

The Step Falls hike will be followed by a potluck dinner at the Mahoosuc Mountain Lodge, approximately a half-mile back down Route 26 toward Bethel.

Participants should bring a dish to share, which can be dropped off at the lodge on the way to Step Falls, or brought with you after the hike.

This event is part of WMSC's Down Home Maine series, and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Steve Smith at 824-3491 or stsmith@pcgus.com.

Help needed to find vet photos

During the past eight years, Len Greaney received over 50 calls or e-mails from Vietnam Veterans across America seeking information about their comrades. Yesterday was the culmination of a 2.5 year effort to bring closure to a request from James Caldwell from Phoenix, Ariz.

James Caldwell is a Vietnam War Veteran who was wounded on Aug. 9, 1967. He called Len on Nov. 10, 2012 after finding his name on a remembrance note for Peter Lee Dube on the Washington, D.C. website "Virtual Vietnam War Wall." Remembrance notes were written for each of our Oxford County Vietnam Vets after commissioning the Vietnam War Memorial in Rumford during 2007. He called to express his concern that he found a special remembrance in a large glassed picture frame at a yard sale in Arizona. He hoped that Len could find a family member to accept the memory article of CPL Dube. He followed the ensuing e-mail exchange by mailing the frame to Len via Federal Express.

Strangely, on Nov. 11, 2012 (one day after receiving the call) Len attended the local Memorial Day service at Mountain Valley HS Auditorium. While waiting to enter the auditorium, he stood near a fellow Post 24 Vet and shared the story about the need to find a family member of Peter Dube. He said he knew one or more family members but after several calls Len realized he couldn't locate one.

Recently, Len received an e-mail from a veteran in Indiana. He introduced himself as a veteran researcher attempting to find photographs of Vietnam War casualties for placement on the Internet "Wall of Faces." He specifically asked for a photo of Corporal Peter Lee Dube who enlisted from Rumford. Len told him that he would hunt down a photo and submit it to the "Wall of Faces." He sent a second e-mail asking to find photos of twelve Oxford County Veterans. Shortly after his last e-mail, Len received an email from a Lewiston resident Monica Lee (Dube) Wooten. Finally, found an enthusiastic niece of the deceased vet.

The framed remembrance contained an award for Peter L. Dube's Bronze Star recognition and several letters of condolence to his parents. Included was an article dated "Memorial Day 1969," which presented the names of the Maine Vietnam War casualties.

SMH Family Birthplace offers Infant CPR

The Family Birthplace at Stephens Memorial Hospital is offering Infant CPR classes. These classes are helpful to both new and experienced parents. The next class will be held on Saturday, May 9, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the Harper Conference Center in the Ripley Medical Office Building (193 Main Street, Norway).

Learn the skills to do CPR and choking rescue on an infant up to the age of one year. This is a hands-on experience with manikins where you'll have an opportunity to practice these skills. Come have fun and learn a valuable life-long tool.

Fee is \$10 per person. Pre-registration with payment is required. To register for this class or for more information please contact The Family Birthplace at 743-1562 ext. 6951.

Stephens Memorial Hospital is a Leapfrog 2014 Top Rural Hospital and is a member of MaineHealth. Visit Western Maine Health on the Internet at www.wmhcc.org or follow us at Facebook.com/StephensMemorialME.

West Paris Library offers a "Let's Talk About It" Book Group

The West Paris Library has been selected by the Maine Humanities Council to offer "Let's Talk About It," a free reading and discussion group with copies of books available through the library. This program is provided by the Maine Humanities Council's Maine Center for the Book in cooperation with the Maine State Library.

The series, "Across Cultures and Continents - Literature of Southeast Asia," begins on May 21, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Paris

Library, 206 Main Street, West Paris. The book discussions continue for five sessions through Aug. 13, 2015.

Books to be read and discussed in the series are: A Passage to India by E.M. Forster; Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie; Bricklane by Monica Ali; Jasmine by Bharat Mukherjee; and Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri. A scholar provided by the Maine Humanities Council will facilitate the discussions.

"Exploring ideas and issues through literature has a unique and fun way of creating community," said Nicole Rancourt, director of the "Let's Talk About It" series. "We find that there is great interest among adults getting together to discuss what they have read with others. Having a discussion leader like Sagaree Sangupta, a writer, translator and scholar, who is both excited about the readings and skilled in facilitating helps to deepen this experience." Sangupta, who is multi-lingual, is currently a full-time teacher at McAuley High School in Portland and an occasional teacher at Bates College in Lewiston.

Books for the program are available for loan at the library. Please call the library at 207-674-2004 to register and come in to pick up your books. The library is open Monday 1:30 to 6; Wednesday 1:30 to 7; Friday 1:30 to 6; and Saturday 10 to 2.

For more information about "Let's Talk About It" and the work of the Maine Humanities Council, see www.mainehumanities.org or call the office in Portland at 207-773-5051.

Tickets still available for 'An Evening with Richard Blanco'

Tickets are still available for "An Evening With Richard Blanco" which will be held on Friday, May 1, 2015, at 7 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church, UCC in Norway located at 205 Main Street in Norway. This program is sponsored by the Lifelong Learning Fund of the Norway Memorial Library. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$10 per person at the library or by mailing a check to Norway Memorial Library, 258 Main Street, Norway 04268. Checks should be made payable to the library and should include the name of the person who will pick them up at "will-call" at the event. Tickets may also be purchased at Books N Things of Norway. To use a credit card to purchase tickets, call Books N Things at 207-739-6200. Tickets will be available at the door on a first-come-first-served basis. Ticket sales at the event

are by cash or check only.

Richard Blanco, the inaugural Poet at Barack Obama's second inauguration, will present a program of poetry, storytelling



and life reflections using readings from his work and a slide show. Blanco has resided in Bethel for the past several years where he has been active in the community. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. Copies of his memoir, The Prince of Cocuyos, about

growing up in Miami, Fla., as a Cuban American are available to purchase at Books N Things before the event or will be available after the program for purchase as well. Books N Things also has copies of his poetry books for purchase before the event and after the program.

The Richard Blanco program is the first in a series of programs that will be supported by the Norway Memorial Library's Lifelong Learning Fund. Ticket sales will replenish the fund that aims to bring to the community "special programs and projects that encourage people of all ages to explore ideas, expand horizons, and discover and build connections for a lifetime of reading and learning."

For more information about this event call the Norway Memorial Library at 743-5309 and speak with the Reference Desk at ext. 1, or check the Library's website at www.norway.lib.me.us, or follow the event details on Facebook.

Oxford County Democrats events

The Oxford County Democrats will hold several events in May and June to launch the 2015-2016 campaign cycle including a field trip to the State House, two regional meetings and a Volunteer Recognition event with Mike Michaud as special guest.

The field trip will take place on Wednesday, May 6 and will feature a meet-up at the Cross Café at 8:30 followed by visits to meetings, legislative sessions, special briefings, lunch with legislators, and afternoon committee sessions. Anyone planning to attend is asked to RSVP by May 2 to info@oxforddems.org or to Cathy Newell at 875-2116.

Thursday, May 7 is the date for a meeting in Mexico at the Town Hall beginning at 5:30. Pizza will be shared and the agenda will include an update on plans for the summer, with special emphasis on the northern part of the county. A special feature of this meeting will be the kickoff of the Hillary Clinton for President campaign in Oxford County with Chuck Quinterio. Anyone interested in helping with the Clinton campaign in Oxford County is urged to attend as well as others interested in legislative, county and congressional races in 2016. RSVP for pizza count is appreciated at info@oxforddems.org or to Cathy Newell at 875-2116.

Thursday, May 21 is the date for a meeting in Fryeburg at the Legion Hall beginning at 5:30 with refreshments. Details of this meeting will include updates in addition to a speaker or speakers to be announced.

Saturday, June 6 is the date for the Volunteer Recognition event with Mike Michaud as special guest. Michaud is the graduation speaker at the Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School graduation that evening. Details to be announced. Additional information will be posted on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/OxfordCountyDems>.

MLT hike on Bull Branch

The Mahoosuc Land Trust invites friends eager to experience the mountains in spring to a "quiet hike" along the Bull Branch in Newry on Saturday, May 9. The hike will follow a moderate but unmaintained trail from the Wright Trail parking area toward Mahoosuc Notch. We will bushwhack a side trip or two to look for small falls on the river. Conditions may be highly variable. The round trip will be up to 7+ miles, and we expect to complete the hike in 3 to 4 hours.

Please meet at 9 a.m. at the Twin Bridges parking lot on the Sunday River Road: pass the covered bridge and continue to where the road becomes gravel. When you see two cement bridges on the left, cross and park. From there we can carpool to the Wright Trail parking lot.

Bring a daypack with food and water. Dress for steady hiking, packing a light overlayer (windbreaker and nylon pants) and hat - and perhaps a light insulating layer, depending on weather conditions. Expect to get wet feet: light hikers or sneakers are suggested. As this is planned as a quiet hike to increase the odds of spotting wildlife, please leave your dog at home.

Please call the land trust (207-824-3806) to indicate that you plan to attend. If conditions on May 9 aren't good (heavy rain, high water or remaining snowpack) you'll be called about a postponement to May 16.

The Mahoosuc Land Trust is an accredited community land trust encouraging public interest in conservation in central Oxford County and eastern Coos County, NH, supporting a balance of growth and conservation and emphasizing sustainable and traditional land uses. For more information visit www.mahoosuc.org or call 207-824-3806.

International Migratory Bird Day in WMNF

To celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), White Mountain National Forest biologist, Lesley Rowe, will lead an early morning bird walk on Saturday, May 9. The two-hour walk will begin at 7 a.m. at the parking area near Hastings Campground. All ages and abilities are welcome. The parking area is located at the junction of Highway 113 and the Wild River Road. Take Route 2 to Gilead. From Gilead, follow Highway 113 south to the road junction with the Wild River Road. You cannot get to the parking area from the south side of HWY 113 as it is still gated.

Each spring millions of migratory birds return to the United States and Canada to breed and raise their young. A variety of birds including several species of warblers and thrush return each year to breed on the White Mountain National Forest.

Habitat is critical to the survival of every organism on earth, including birds. In 2015, the International Migratory Bird Day conservation theme focuses on the importance of preserving existing habitat, the threats to habitats, the elements of habitat on which birds depend, and how restoration of habitats benefits birds <http://www.fws.gov/birds/imbd/>.

International Migratory Bird Day is sponsored by Environment for the Americas (EFTA). It celebrates the migration of over 350 species of nesting birds that nest in North America, and winter in Latin America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. EFTA provides information about bird conservation in these areas.

If you have questions regarding this event, contact the Androscoggin Ranger Station at 603-466-2713 ext. 1231.

Spring has SPRUNG! Find out what's blooming at Frank's Bank!

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on new cars (2013-2015)

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SMH Offers Child Safety Seat Inspection Event

The staff at the Family Birthplace is urging parents, caregivers and grandparents to make sure their child safety seats are properly installed. A car seat safety event will be held on Saturday, May 16 at the Oxford Hills High School (front parking lot) between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will

be available to provide free hands-on seat inspections. "It's the responsibility of every single parent, caregiver or anyone who transports children in their vehicle to make sure their passengers are safely restrained - every trip, every time," said Carol Welsh, RN, Perinatal Outreach Coordinator for Stephens Memorial

Hospitals Family Birthplace. "When it comes to the safety of a child there is no room for mistakes," Welsh stated, "Car seats, when installed correctly and used, are extremely effective in saving children's lives. Proper use of a car seat reduces the risk of death by as much as 71 percent for infants. However, car seats are complicated to install and use

and there are many models to choose from. Even the most conscientious of parents may make mistakes. It has been found that nine out of ten car seats are not installed or used correctly, and that only 5 percent of children who should use a booster seat actually do." To participate in the free car seat inspection, parents, caregivers and

grandparents should stop by the Oxford Hills High School on Saturday, May 16 to ensure their child's safety seats are properly installed; compatible with their vehicle; haven't been subject to a recall; and are the appropriate seat for the child. It is not necessary for you to have the child with you but if possible it is best to bring them. For more information about the event or for

information on car seat safety, please contact Carol Welsh at 207-743-1562 ext. 6951. Stephens Memorial Hospital is a Leapfrog 2014 Top Rural Hospital and is a member of MaineHealth. Visit Western Maine Health on the Internet at www.wmhc.org or follow us at Facebook.com/StephensMemorialME.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

District Exchange; Bethel Park, 23 Mason Street, Bethel. Hours: Monday 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Donations of gently-used clothing only accepted during open hours - No exceptions. FMI: 824-4090. Clothing may also be left at Northeast Bank, Main Street, Bethel Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Bethel Area Food Pantry; serving the residents of Albany, Andover, Bethel, East Bethel, West Bethel, Bryant Pond, Gilead, Greenwood, Hanover, Locke's Mills, Mason Township, Newry, Upton and Woodstock. The Food Pantry is open on the second Monday of each month from noon to 8 p.m. Anyone in need of food should come during those hours, without appointment. The Food pantry is located in the basement of the Nazarene Church, 16 Church Street, Bethel, by the side entrance on Park Street.

Thursday, April 30

"End of Life Care: Having the Conversation" TYH Presentation; 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., West Parish Congregational Church, 32 Church Street, Bethel. Sponsored by To Your Health of Western Mountains Senior College, this program is designed to inspire a dialogue about end of life issues. Hard questions that need to be asked about the quality of life will be addressed and discussed by a five-member panel in this interactive program. Public is invited and admission is free. FMI call R. Tiff at 824-2053.

May 1 and 2

Andover School Fundraiser; On Friday, May 1, there will be a family spaghetti supper at 6 p.m. The celebration will continue with Pete Coolidge and friends playing some great music, Andover Style. Carol Emery will MC with a combination of storytelling, lip-synchs, singing with slide show, puppetry, essay reading and who knows what else? This part of the celebration is BYOB and for adult audiences. The celebration will continue on Saturday, May 2 with a Family Fun Day at 10 a.m. Games galore and a free cookout for Andover residents at the ball field by Mills' Market. Donations for any of these events will be very much appreciated. Please call Carol Emery at 392-3161 if you would like to help.

Friday, May 1

Animal Communication Talk/Potluck; 6 p.m. potluck (bring a dish to share), 7 p.m. talk, Mahoosuc Mountain Lodge, North Newry. Nancy Hohmann will talk about animal communication. Donations accepted to benefit Responsible Pet Care. FMI: 824-2073.

Hunts Corner Cemetery Assn. Meeting; 6:30 p.m., Betty Gingras' home. FMI: 824-3408.

Poetry Reading/Talk with Richard Blanco; 7 p.m., Second Congregational Church, UCC, 205 Main Street, Norway. Blanco will present a reading of poetry and prose and a talk entitled, "Just Tell Me a Story: Writing the Memoir," which will discuss his memoir "The Prince of Los Cocuyos" (Ecco, 2014) along with his experiences as the 2013 Inaugural Poet. Following a question and answer period, Blanco will be available to sign books. Books N Things of Norway will be in-house providing books for purchase. General admission: \$10. Tickets available at the Norway Memorial Library at 258 Main Street, Norway and Books N Things at 430 Main Street, Norway.

Saturday, May 2

Woodstock Conservation Commission Clean-Up Day; 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Bryant Pond ball field. Help clean up the roadside and public sites prior to the Bicentennial June 20 and 21.

Inside/Outside Yard Sale; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., VFW Hall, 58 Main Street, South Paris. Sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary. Tables are \$10. Lunch Counter will be open. Call Marilyn Ramsay at 743-5723 if interested in a table.

Old Fashioned Barn Dance/Potluck; 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. concert, 8 p.m. dance, Mahoosuc Mountain Lodge, North Newry. All dances are taught. Beginners are welcome. Cost is \$10, children under 16 half-price. FMI: 824-2073.

Franklin Grange 124 Mock Hee-Haw Show; 7 p.m., Grange Hall, Main Street, Bryant Pond. Live music by John Sparrow, the Milltown Road Show, Richard Felt, Brad Hooper, the Shadagee Ramblers and more. Refreshments available. Door Prizes. 50/50 raffle. Admission: \$6/adults, \$3/children under 12.

Sunday, May 3

Meals on Wheels Fundraiser; 2 to 5 p.m., Locke's Mills Legion Hall. Live music by the Shadagee Ramblers, 50/50, raffle items and snacks. \$10 at the door, \$8 in advance. Meals on Wheels provides nutritious meals to older adults who are homebound and cannot cook for themselves. Proceeds will go toward ending a waitlist of over 100 in the tri-county region. FMI: 1-800-427-1241 or info@seniorsplus.org.

Woodland Cemetery Company Annual Meeting; 7 p.m., Stan Howe's home at 18 Broad Street, Bethel (directly across from the Bethel Inn's main entrance). Officers will be elected, a proposed budget will be considered, and plans for the summer and future will be discussed. Anyone interested in maintaining this historic burial ground is cordially invited to attend.

Monday, May 4

Essentials of College Planning for adults 19 and over; 10 a.m., Western Maine University and Community College Center, South Paris. FMI/Registration: 1-800-281-3703 or <http://meoc.maine.edu>. Free and open to the public.

Socrates Café Meeting; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Waterford Library. Discussion Topic: How Can We Achieve Social Equity? Moderator: Scott Vlaun. Light refreshments will be provided. FMI: 583-6957.

East Bethel Cemetery Assn. Meeting; 7 p.m., the Grange Hall.

Tuesday, May 5

Brown Bag Lunch: Local Food Initiatives; 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., Bethel Inn Library. The Edible Bethel project, featured in the recent "Bethel Living" magazine, and the

Local Food Connection, are two of several noteworthy initiatives in our area connecting community members with locally grown food. Facilitators Amanda Moran and Meryl Kelly will begin with updates on these ventures and will invite participants' ideas on how we can all support those efforts and play a part in fostering a healthier community. RSVP by May 1. FMI/RSVP: Nancy Davis (nancydavis@megalink.net or 881-1110).

Oxford Pomona Grange Meeting; Bear Mountain Grange, South Waterford. 6 p.m. potluck supper followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 6

Greenwood Historical Society Meeting; Locke's Mills. 6:15 potluck supper, 7 p.m. meeting. Guest speaker: Will Chapman, "Modern Methods of Storing Archives."

Vote on Proposed Region 9 School of Applied Technology Budget; Region 9 School of Applied Technology, 377 River Road, Mexico.

Friday, May 8

Alder River Grange Meeting; the Grange Hall. 6 p.m. potluck supper followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 9

Infant CPR Course; 8:30 to 10 a.m., Harper Conference Center, Ripley Medical Office Building, 193 Main Street, Norway. \$10 per person. Pre-registration with payment required. FMI/Registration: 743-1562 ext. 6951.

MLT Bull Branch Hike; 9 a.m., Twin Bridges parking lot on Sunday River Road. The round trip hike will be 7+ miles of unmaintained trail and will take three to four hours. Bring a daypack with food and water, dress for steady hiking and expect to get feet wet. Please leave dogs at home. FMI/RSVP: 824-3806.

Hope Association Spring Craft Fair; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 85 Lincoln Avenue, Rumford. Many crafters along with raffles, Chinese auction, cookie walk, and lunch specials with make your own sundaes. There will be a Kid's Corner with games and prizes. All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Team Sunshine. FMI: Sally Theriault (364-4561).

American Legion Post 72 Indoor Yard Sale; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Church Street, South Paris. To reserve your table, call Jean (743-7965). Yard sale tables are \$10, vendor tables are \$15. Lunch counter will be open, 50/50 raffle and raffle baskets. Come join the fun and help support the ladies auxiliary send three young ladies to Girl State.

Build a Birdhouse Workshop; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Maine Wildlife Park, Gray. Park staff and volunteers will take you through the building process and build your own bird house using a kit template the Park will provide. There is no additional fee for this activity, but supplies are limited and will be handed out on a first come, first served basis.

Oxford Hills Honey Bee Club Workshop; 1 p.m., Oxford County Extension Center, 9 Olson Road, South Paris. Linwood Sweet will give a demonstration on how to prevent swarming using the Demarree Method. Weather permitting there will be an open hive, so bring your veils. Public's welcome. FMI: Kevin (farrout@roadrunner.com) or mainehoneybees.com.

Woodstock Historical Society Clean-up Day; 2 p.m. at the museum. Following the clean-up, there will be a potluck supper and monthly meeting. There will be no program this month.

Football Benefit Dinner & Concert; Sunday River Brew Pub. Dinner 5 to 8 p.m. (10 percent of food and beverage purchases benefit local football programs for all ages). Concert with Roadhouse 8 to 12 p.m., 21+, \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. All proceeds go to SAD 44 Football grades 2-12.

Swingin' Bears Square Dance; 7 to 10 p.m., Oxford Hills Middle School, 100 Pine Street, South Paris. Yodeling club caller Ray Hilton will present a Mainstream and Plus dance and Bernie Porter will be the round dance cuer. Refreshments will be served at intermission. Door prizes. 50/50 drawing. Admission: \$6 per person (non-dancers welcome at no charge).

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day Open Heart Concert: Honoring the Possibilities of LOVE; 3 to 5 p.m., First Congregational Church, 17 East Main Street, South Paris. \$5-15 donation. Looking for a new way to celebrate Mother's Day? Join Katey, Deb and Fred as we honor you, your mother(s), daughters, sons, husbands, and mother earth with this unique concert in the round. Katey Branch and Deb Hensley on vocals, Fred White on guitar and percussion. We all mother in one way or another so come honor that in yourself and others. FMI: Katey (890-9622) or www.hallspondhealingarts.com.

Tuesday, May 12

Supper Dance; 5 to 9:30 p.m., Locke's Mills Legion Hall. Music by the Shadagee Ramblers. Menu: Ham, baked beans, mac and cheese, coleslaw, rolls and pies. Adults/\$10, Children/\$3. Doors open at 4 p.m.

May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10 and 17

Quick Start Workshop on Starting a Business; 6 to 8 p.m., Community Concepts Conference Room, 17 Market Square, South Paris. Instructors include Dana Hanley, Esq. of Hanley & Associates, Daryl Cote, CPA, with Oulette & Associates, PA and Oxford Hills SCORE business counselors Steve Veazey, John Huffman and Charlie Peabody. \$50 for the series, \$10 for an individual workshop. FMI: 743-6543 or mpurcell@community-concepts.org.

Wednesday, May 13

Bethel Senior Citizens Meeting; 11 a.m., Bethel Alliance Church (across from Telstar). This will be a potluck meal. Members are asked to bring a dish to share. A \$3 donation for the church is suggested.

Thursday, May 14

"Pig Out on Reading" Program; 1 p.m., Whitman Memorial Library, Bryant Pond. Farmer Minor, his pig Daisy and his two pug dogs will present a program to two Woodstock Elementary School Classes. The public is also welcome to attend.

WMSC Step Falls Hike/Potluck; 4 p.m., Step Falls Preserve, Route 26, Newry. Lynne Zimmerman of Bethel will lead the leisurely one-mile hike to identify spring wildflowers and enjoy the waterfalls. The hike will be followed by a potluck dinner at the Mahoosuc Mountain Lodge. FMI: Steve Smith (824-3491 or stsmith@pcgus.com).

DASH Diet Workshop; 5:30 to 7 p.m., Harper Conference Center, Ripley Medical Office Building, 193 Main Street, Norway. Registered dietician Pat Watson will present a program on the DASH Diet to Lower High Blood Pressure. There is no cost for this program. FMI/Registration: 743-1562 ext. 6896.

Cooking Gluten Free; 5:30 to 8 p.m., Bethel Alliance Church. A living gluten free cooking workshop will be offered by Suzanne Dunham, gluten free baker and herbalist. The class will begin with a brief presentation about going gluten free. The cooking session will be hands on preparation of two gluten free dishes, and will include tips about using alternative flours in cooking. Handouts and recipes will be provided. Tuition: \$12. FMI/Registration: 824-2780.

May 15, 16 and 17

15th Annual Home Garden Flower Show, May Fair; Fryeburg Fairgrounds. Seven buildings filled with almost 300 plus booths on home and energy and 9 garden centers, garden artisans and crafters, plus five acres of outdoor products for the home and garden and other related businesses. The famous Meet the Chefs Cooking Series, Lodge Cast Iron Skillet Toss, Home and Garden Seminars, Kids activities and demonstrations. Guest speakers, fair food and more. General Admission \$10. Children 10 and under free. Group rates available. FMI: www.homegardenflowershow.com or 800-359-2033.

Saturday, May 16

Car Seat Safety Event; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School's front parking lot. Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will be available to provide free hands-on seat inspections.

Rumford Auxiliary Yard Sale; Members of the Auxiliary will be at 209 Lincoln Avenue on Friday mornings during May to accept donations from the public for the yard sale. Pick up for donations to the sale can be arranged by calling 364-3648 or at 562-4343. The Auxiliary accepts everything except major appliances and clothing. Furniture, rugs, kitchen goods, books and office items are big sellers. All proceeds are donated to Rumford Hospital.

Sunday, May 17

Local and Legendary: Bethel, Maine in the Civil War - Final Celebration; 4 p.m., Bingham Auditorium, Gould Academy, featuring The Androscoggin Chorale Chamber Singers and the dramatic presentation of "My Dear Absent Husband" based on the actual letters of Stephen and Lydia Richards of Upton.

Monday, May 18

Essentials of College Planning for adults 19 and over; 10 a.m., Western Maine University and Community College Center, South Paris. FMI/Registration: 1-800-281-3703 or <http://meoc.maine.edu>. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, May 20

"The Ancestral Androscoggin Esker and Related Local Glacial Features"; 7:00 p.m., Rumford Municipal Building. Sponsored by the Rumford Historical Society at its May meeting, naturalist and environmental educator Bob Elliott uses slides and discussion to illustrate how the Ice Age glacier created "kames," "kettle holes," "plunge-pit pot-holes," and the remarkable "Ancestral Androscoggin Esker" the gravel ridge often called the "whale's back" that dots the landscape for over 70 miles from Aziscohos through the Richardson Lakes, the Ellis River Valley, along Routes 232 and 26 all the way to Cumberland. Please arrive by 7 p.m. for a brief business meeting of the Society. Program is expected to begin at 7:15. Enter the building through the Police Station on the River Street side, go to the end of the hall and take the elevator to the third floor Auditorium. Then come on Saturday, May 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for a Field Trip to explore area features, leaving from Route 232 in Rumford Point. Please bring your own lunch. FMI: Bob at 824-2928.

Thursday, May 21

Invasive Forest Pests and Invasive Plants Program; 2 p.m., Whitman Memorial Library. Jean Federico of the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District will present information on invasive forest pests and invasive plants and what we can do to help battle these problems.

Saturday, May 23

MLT Spring Bird Walk; 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., 1.1 miles north of the intersection of the Andover Road and East Andover Road. Please park on the right hand side of the road as you travel north. Dress for weather, bugs, walking and wet footing. FMI/RSVP: 357-9954 or eecker@gmail.com.

June 13 and 20

Photography Class; Telstar High School, Room 133. This is an introduction to digital photography course for those who are looking to improve their photography skills. Topics that will be covered include, but are not limited to, basic camera functions, light use, portraiture and landscapes, and basic editing techniques. This course is for those using both digital point-and-shoot and DSLR cameras. Bring your camera. Tuition: \$25. FMI/Registration: 824-2780.

Saturday, June 27

Bethel Rotary's Annual Yard Sale and Auction; Telstar High School, Bethel. Yard sale opens at 8 a.m. Auction preview at 5:30 followed by the auction at 6:30 p.m. To donate items, please contact (207) 653-9297. Gift certificates, furniture, antiques and treasures at the auction. Proceeds benefit Rotary's scholarship program, local community projects and more. FMI: www.bethelrotary.org.

A
P
R

3
0

2
0
1
5

Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

CRISSCROSS – “UM” WORDS

Each word will fit into one spot in the grid. Use the starting letters as a guide and fit each word into its spot. All words will be used, so cross off each one after you put it into the grid.

3 Letters

GUM
MUM

4 Letters

CHUM
JUMP
NUMB

5 Letters

CRUMB
FUMED
HUMAN
STUMP

6 Letters

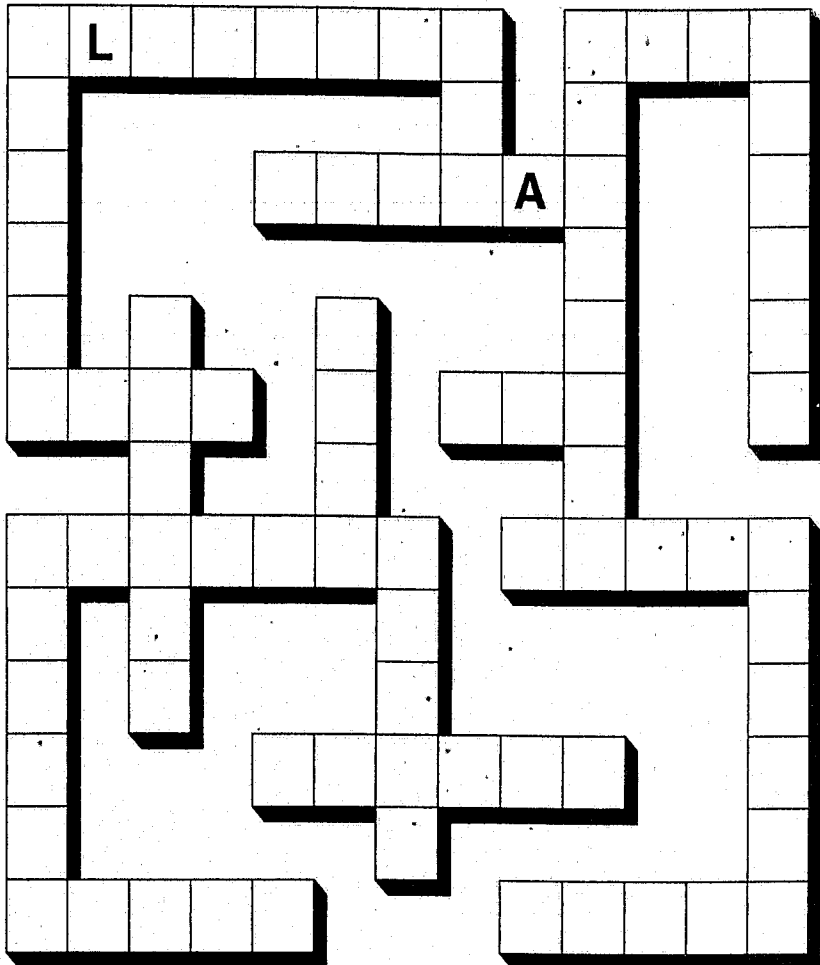
AUTUMN
BUMPED
MUMBLE
THUMBS
TRAUMA
TRUMAN
UMPIRE

7 Letters

TRIUMPH

8 Letters

ALUMINUM
CONSUMER



"We'd better make this the last game, girls. I think Harold wants his _____."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Perform

EARPOET

Help

RESEV

Browse

SUEPER

Limber

PUPELS

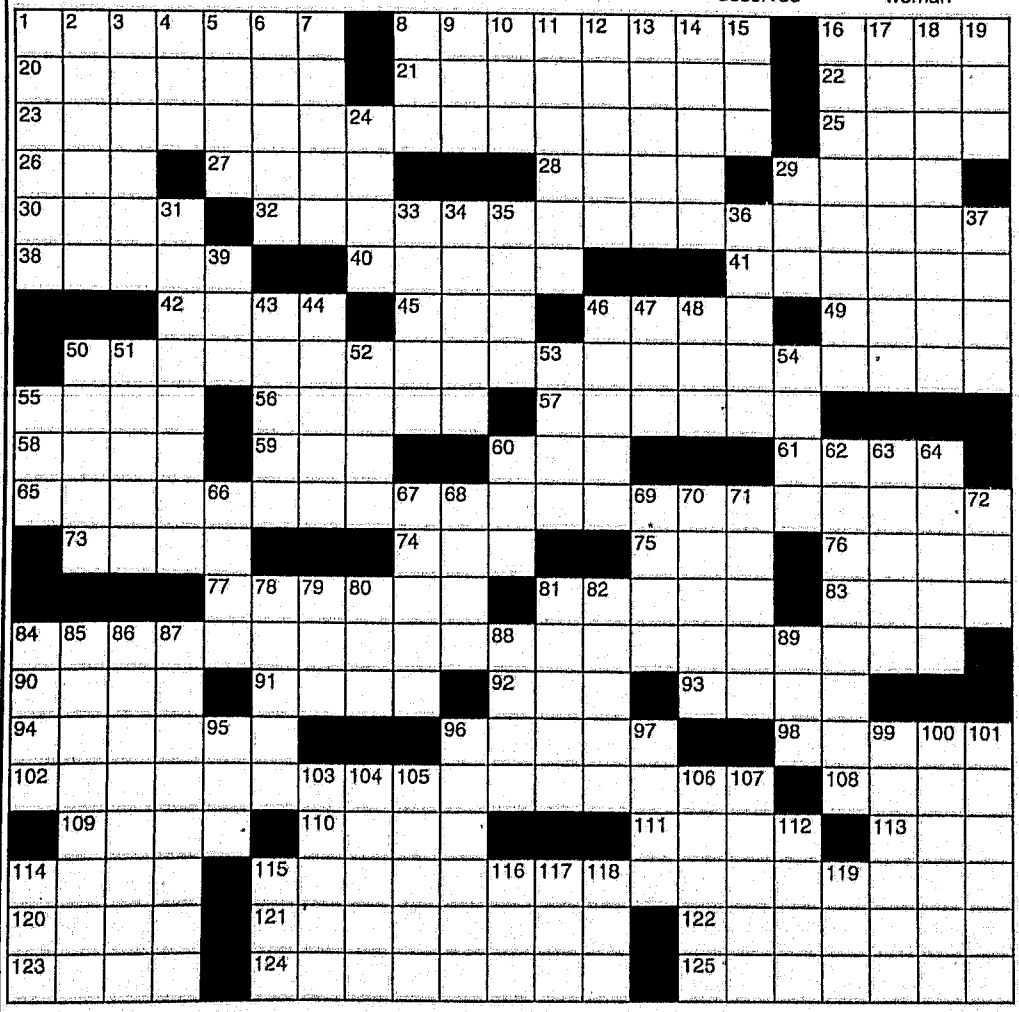
TODAY'S WORD

Super Crossword

JOB SCREENING

- ACROSS**

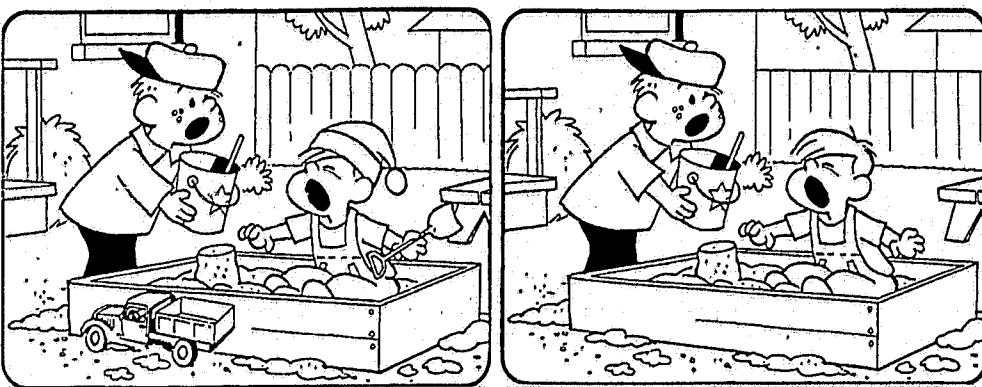
1 Perceive
8 Wavering
16 Dies down
20 One of the Great Lakes
21 CD from Eminem or Jay-Z, say
22 Marshland
23 Start of a riddle
25 Teal, e.g.
26 Mineo of films
27 First-century emperor
28 Sufficient, in dialect
29 After-bath sprinkle
30 Zest
32 Riddle, part 2
38 Majestic
41 Inane
42 High-pH compound
43 Sticky, viscous stuff
45 Previously called
46 "— have to wall"
49 ESPN's Hersher
50 Riddle, part 3
55 They often elicit groans
56 "Suffice it —"
- 57 Chinese zoo mammals
58 "Thou — lady": King Lear
59 Hotel's kin
60 Young dog
61 Sews an edge around
65 Riddle, part 4
73 Tara of "American Pie"
74 Granola bit
75 "— Man Answers" (1962 film)
76 Jazzy Anita
77 Irritated reply to "Are you awake?"
81 Devours, with "down"
83 Accept
84 Riddle, part 5
90 Gulf nation
91 Good diving score
92 Genetic letters
93 Flanders river
94 Ovum, e.g.
96 "There it is!"
98 Souases
102 End of the riddle
108 AI who drew L'il Abner
109 Old Italian coins
110 Tie down, as a ship
111 Sheikh, e.g.
113 Actress Carrere
114 Mark Twain's Huck
115 Riddle's answer
120 Poker cost
121 Ethereal quality
122 Relate (to)
123 Prayer opener
124 Northern parts of New York and New Jersey
125 Numbers used in sums
- 11 In a docile way
12 1985 Kate Nelligan film
13 In re
14 "Dallas" actor
15 Singer
16 Begin, as a journey
17 — ball (pool hall item)
18 "Fists of Fury" star
19 Get sight of
24 "— the weather?"
29 Phone no.
31 Port of Japan
33 Actress Lisa
34 Poem of lamentation
35 "Hick" actor
36 Hayek of Hollywood
37 Window ledge
39 Parking —
43 — left field
44 Time
46 Repeated statement in Windows ads
47 Plating metal
48 Kind of PC monitor
50 Rage
51 — nous
52 "There —" in team
53 Musical piece
54 Racket-raising Arthur
55 Rover's foot of affairs
60 Fruit discard
62 Arcane
63 Annoyed with
64 Boa, for one
66 "Right, bro"
67 0% of the people
68 Biker's bike, colloquially
69 Largest city on Hawaii
70 "Get — back!"
71 Abrades
72 Coloring substance
78 Dance great de Mille
79 Ovid's 1,051
80 Diarist Anaïs
81 Took the prize
82 Florida city
84 Breathe loudly
85 Bringing up the rear
86 Collides with
87 Not deserved
88 Tramped (on)
89 "Holiday" actor Ayres
95 Mao — Tung
96 Romeo and Juliet's town
97 "It's — state of affairs"
99 Lane of Broadway
100 Narcotic
101 Generates
103 Beatnik's "Got it!"
104 People on the move
105 Like a well-pitched inning
106 "Sing, Sing, Sing" drummer Gene
107 Totally filled
112 Longtime West Virginia senator Robert
114 — Schwarz
115 Sorority letter
116 Humid
117 Suffix with colour
118 Ar-lee link
119 Honored Fr. woman



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



1. Railing is lower. 2. Shirt sleeve is shorter. 3. Truck is missing. 4. Fence top is different. 5. Hat is missing. 6. Shovel is missing.

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: H equals E

CQH OHRPGUCUPF BPLWHLM

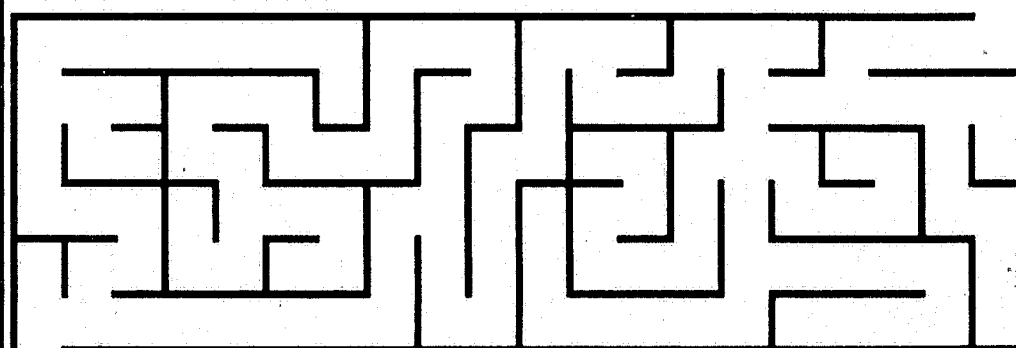
RTMC IH Z IUD QUC BUCQ

PFGPPWHLM. CQHJ' LH ZGBZJM

ILUFDUFD CQH QPTMH OPBF.

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Kids' Maze

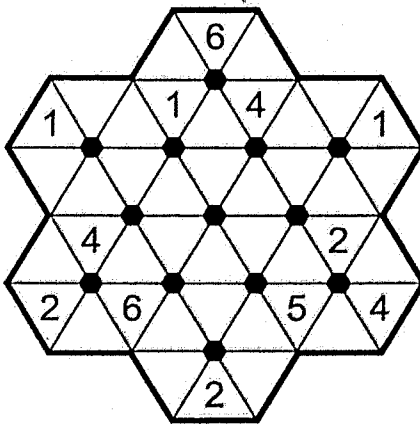


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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

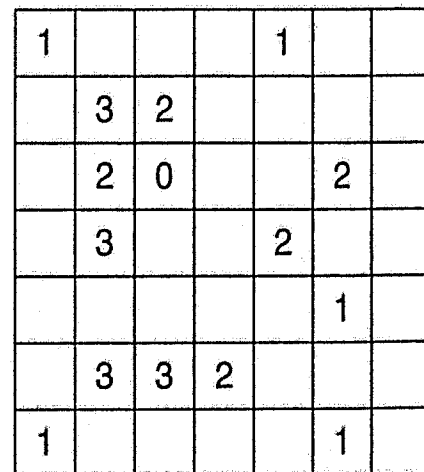
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Star★Map

By Linda Thistle

Draw a star in exactly 10 of the empty squares in the diagram below so that each numbered square accurately indicates how many immediately adjacent squares (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) contain a star.



DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Easy ★★ Moderate ★★ YOWZA!

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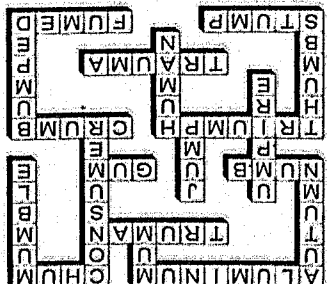


Kids' Maze Solution

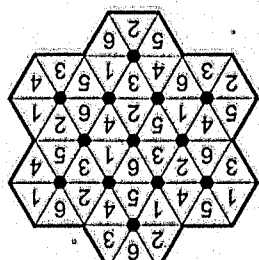
The demolition workers must be a big hit with onlookers. They're always bringing the house down.

CryptoQuip

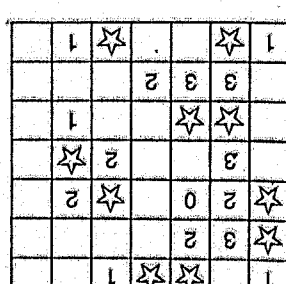
Today's Word
SUPPER
1. Operate; 2. Serve; 3. Peruse; 4. Supple



Puzzles4Kids Answer



SNOWFLAKES solution



Star★Map solution

ANSWERS:

A
P
R

3
0

2
0
1
5

Numb as a Pounded Thumb

BY JOHN McDONALD

(Ed. note: John McDonald is a Maine storyteller, best-selling author and radio personality on Portland's WGAN.

He has written five books on Maine including "A Moose and a Lobster Walk into a Bar," "John McDonald's Maine Trivia," and "The Maine Dictionary." He also entertains groups throughout New England with his Maine stories.)

When is ice out?

The other day I was at the diner in town and I casually asked the assembled scholars when they thought the ice would be out of the lake.

Everyone scratched their heads and said things like: That's a tough one, John because you never know from one year to the next when 'ice out' will occur.

All agreed it was a tough one.

Al Crimmons said the weather's been pretty cold lately and that always slows things down on the lake. He said we know it's melting some, out there in the middle and where you have moving water flowing in it's mostly gone but trying to guess when all the ice'll be gone is always tough.

Deciding to make things even more interesting I

said: So, what does the term "ice-out" mean, anyway? I'm allowed to ask that since I'm from over on the coast where "ice out" isn't an issue. The assembled scholars at our table love to tackle questions on the subject of "ice-out."

Ask enough people what "ice out" means and it'll soon become clear that it can mean almost anything.

Strict constructionists will insist that you can't say the ice is out until the phrase is literally true - all the ice - every single bit of it, no matter how small a piece, no matter how insignificant, ALL of it is out of the lake.

Math-types like to throw out numbers - percentages. They'll say it's close enough to say the ice is out if roughly 90 percent of the ice has melted, disappeared. Once someone throws out a number, others will join in with their numbers - you'll have the 85-percenters, the 60-percenters and the 51-percenters. Anything more than half is close enough.

Bud Seavey said he didn't care to argue the point because the ice was out in front of his place and he's planning to put his dock in this weekend. He said the ice can do what it wants. He doesn't care.

Bill Vazquez, a retired professor who knows much more than the rest of us combined said 'ice out' depends on the weather, of course. What you want to get the ice out is plenty of sunshine, he said.

We all nodded in agreement.

Then it was like being back in school. Professor Vasquez started lecturing and we students sat there listening.

Bill said he read on the internet that as the sun becomes more intense it melts the snow on top of the ice and once that snow's cover is gone the sunlight burns right through that

ice. The ice doesn't actually melt from the top down it melts from the bottom up, he said.

The average date of ice-out depends on the lake's size and location. Small lakes and ponds lose their ice first and up in The County lakes hold onto the ice the longest.

Since I wasn't planning to go canoeing or swimming on that particular day - and therefore didn't care about the ice in the lake - I left Bill's ice-out class to get going on what I was supposed to be doing. I figured I could get the notes from someone who stayed for the whole lecture.



IS THE ICE IN, OUT, OR JUST DISPLACED? Last Wednesday on Songo Pond, the ice appeared to have 'gone out' from the south end of the pond (left). But the next day, it was back - thanks to a north wind that brought some ice still in the north end to the south. A. Aloisio

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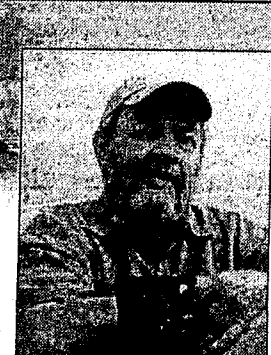
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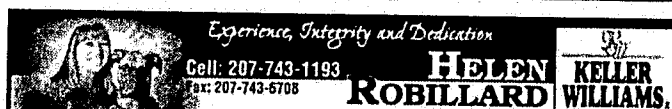
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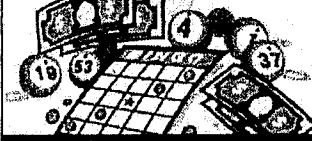
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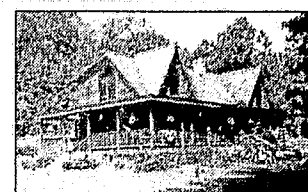
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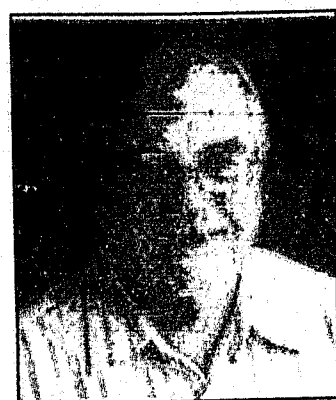


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Obituaries



WILLIAM EAMES

William Ernest Eames was born Jan. 3, 1950 in Rumford to Kathryn MacKay and Rodney E. Eames of Bethel. He passed away unexpectedly due to an accidental fall in his home on April 13, 2015.

Bill, as he was known to all, grew up in Bethel, attending local schools and graduating from Gould Academy in 1968. He went on to the University of Maine, Orono, joining the fraternity TKE and was very active in student government and politics, graduating with a degree in Political Science. Upon graduation from UMO, Bill was accepted to the University of Maine School of Law, but the call of the open road was stronger than his desire to practice law. Bill

travelled to Florida by bicycle with a friend to become a carpenter, later moving to South Carolina and then to Nebraska. Bill was quickly promoted to Foreman over a large crew of carpenters at the power plant being built in Sutherland, Neb.

Bill quickly fell in love with the open Prairie of the West. From Nebraska, Bill transferred to another power plant project in Wolf Creek, Kan., where he met the love of his life, Darlene Rentschler. They married and moved to Glen Rose, Texas in 1985 where he became employed at the Comanche Peak Power Project. They raised two daughters, Katy and Sarah, and Bill began teaching at the local schools in the mid-1990s as work at the power plant slowed down. Bill taught Special Education and drove a school bus, fostering wonderful relationships with his students, until his retirement.

Bill was kind, compassionate and always quick to help anyone in any way he could. Bill was friendly with a twinkle in his eye and a ready smile. He loved the outdoors and all of Mother Nature's offerings. He was a trailblazer,

explorer, prospector and adventurer. He truly had a zest for life and shared it with everyone he met.

He was a natural born teacher, sharing his knowledge willingly with anyone curious enough to ask. He loved animals and especially enjoyed bird-watching, educating his entire family as to the joys of its splendor.

He is survived by his daughters, Kathryn and husband Pedro Santiago and their daughter Lara of Meridian, Idaho, Sarah and husband Scott Mixon of Boise, Idaho; a sister, Lorraine and husband Lonnie Zimmerman of Aiken, S.C.; a brother, Samuel and wife Pat of Manchester, N.H.; a brother-in-law, Keith Bowden of Melrose, Mass.; his mother, Kathryn M. Eames of Portland and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Rodney E. Eames and sister, Bonnie Bowden, with whom he shared a special connection of being born on her birthday when she turned six.

A graveside service was held in Walnut Springs, Texas, and a memorial will take place in Bethel at a time and date to be announced.

Rumford Hospital Receives NICHE Designation

Rumford Hospital announces it has received designation as a NICHE Hospital. The NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) designation indicates a hospital's commitment to elder care excellence.

The NICHE designation signals our dedication to providing patient-centered care for older adult patients. Through our participation in the NICHE program – a leading elder care nursing program – we are able to offer evidence-based, interdisciplinary approaches that promote better outcomes, positive experiences and improved care for older adults. This leads to greater

satisfaction rates for patients, their families and staff. "Rumford Hospital shows a tremendous commitment to meet the most critical challenge of our times – quality care of older adults," says Barbara Bricoli, MPA, Executive Director – NICHE. "The hospital's dedication to drive continuous improvement processes and enhance care marks them as leaders in the field."

About NICHE

NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) is an international program designed to help improve the care of older adults. The vision of NICHE is for all

patients 65-and-over to be given sensitive and exemplary care. The mission of NICHE is to provide principles and tools to stimulate a change in the culture of healthcare facilities to achieve patient-centered care for older adults. NICHE, based at NYU College of Nursing, has over 550 hospitals and healthcare organizations from the U.S., Canada, Bermuda and Singapore in the network.

For more information, visit www.nicheprogram.org. Follow us on: Pinterest@NICHEProgram, Twitter@NICHEProgram, Facebook@NICHEProgramNYU, YouTube@NICHEProgramNYU.

SMH Family Birthplace offers Breastfeeding Classes

The Family Birthplace at Stephens Memorial Hospital announces an upcoming Breastfeeding Class for new and experienced mothers. The class will be held on Wednesday, May 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Harper Conference Center at the Ripley Medical Office Building (193 Main Street) in Norway.

Gail Martel, RN, IBCLC will be leading the class, which will cover the facts of breastfeeding, and help to dispel the myths about it. You will learn skills for successful breastfeeding, as some infants are born knowing what to do and some need to be taught. Some mothers may take more naturally to breastfeeding while others require more support. This class will help make you aware of the support services available to breastfeeding mothers.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breastfeeding for all babies and the staff at The Family Birthplace is here to assist.

For a schedule of future classes, more information or to register for this class please call The Family Birthplace at 743-1562 ext. 6951. There is a \$10 fee per couple. Pre-registration with payment is required. Classes are scheduled six times a year.

Stephens Memorial Hospital is a Leapfrog 2014 Top Rural Hospital and is a member of MaineHealth. Visit Western Maine Health on the Internet at www.wmhc.org or follow us at Facebook.com/StephensMemorialME.

Greenwood City Memories

BY COLISTA MORGAN

An Old Cattle Pound

A few days ago I rode by a small secluded place which I have visited many times. Today it was different for someone had changed its "dress," combed the tangle from its hair and put on a new face. The Greenwood Cattle Pound had been cleaned and restored.

A century and more ago every Maine town had its pound, so named because of its function as an impounding device to keep stray cattle and other animals from wandering into Mrs. Swain's petunia garden, becoming permanently lost with another farmer's animals, or perhaps causing bodily harm to innocent citizens who did nothing to warrant such an inflection. It is a lamentable fact that only about 15 pounds remain in our Pine Tree State today.

The main figure behind the operation of a town pound was the keeper. Although some of these keepers acquired their job by going after them and winning in the town election, many do not realize that the job was often bestowed upon unwilling persons in a manner which reminds one of the similar selection for jury duty. True, the draftee usually met the qualifications of stalwartness, but occasionally provided laughter for the village gossips when the newest and least-prepared male was selected, until it came their turn to be called to serve. These were 24-hour days and 7-day weeks, which seldom experienced a dull moment.

While dealing with animals was usually an encumbering job, dealing with their owners proved often to be an even more demanding task. Some farmers were not above such mendacious tricks as claiming animals which did not belong to them. They sometimes visited the pound on a cloudy night claiming their strays and avoiding paying their fine. Pound keepers tried to

guard against this by keeping records of each animal and living adjacent to the pound, but even then were outfoxed by a craftier farmer. Often, too, he ignored posted notices which resulted in a public auction. Then the proceeds would be appropriated for damages and the care of the animals.

As the 19th Century moved into the 20th, the invention of electric fences and barbed wire kept the farm animals on their own territory.

The curious old structure gradually fell into disuse but some were saved by interested citizens or historical societies.

Man, then, was largely to blame for the pounds' sad destruction in history.

Meanwhile persons like me who enjoy seeing these remaining miniature Stonehenges standing nearby, must be contented with the hope and the stories – some true, and some questionable – that have come down from generation to generation around these village pounds.

Ours here in Greenwood City, built about 1858, is nestled among the trees, on Pound Hill where the flowers bloom, robin builds its nest, sings into late evening and the traffic rushes by, never noticing this historical place, the pound in its new dress.

Spring 1987

May book discussions at Norway Memorial Library

Thursday, May 7, 6:30 p.m.:

Last Word Book Discussion: The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe

During her treatment for cancer, Mary Anne Schwalbe and her son Will spent many hours sitting in waiting rooms together. To pass the time, they would talk about the books they were reading. Once, by chance, they read the same book at the same time – and an informal book club of two was born.

Tuesday, May 12, 9 a.m.:

Morning Book Club: Euphoria by Lily King

Finalist for the Maine Reader's Choice Award. Three young, gifted anthropologists of the '30s caught in a passionate love triangle that threatens their bonds, their careers, and, ultimately, their lives. Inspired by events in the life of revolutionary anthropologist Margaret Mead.

Thursday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.:

Book Discussion: The

Martian by Andy Weir

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive – and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive.

Chances are, though, he won't have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment, or plain-old "human error" are much more likely to kill him first. But Mark isn't ready to give up yet.

Stop by the information desk or call 743-6309 ext. 1 to request a copy!

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Home Improvement Store Price \$35.97

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100 ft Capacity
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Warren Hoe MARDEN'S PRICE \$5.99

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GREENWOOD FIREMANS ASSOCIATION

We would like to let our family, friend's and summer residents know we will be having our fish fry's on the following day's this summer

May 8 & 22 • June 5 & 19 • July 10 & 24
August 14 & 28 • September 11 & 25

All will be 3PM to 7PM at the fire station
Greenwood Fire Department
593 Gore Rd • Greenwood • (207) 875-2888

SURPRISE 70TH BIRTHDAY PARTY
FOR **ROGER BENSON**

ON MAY 9TH 1PM TO 3PM
AT THE BRYANT POND FIRE STATION
IN BRYANT POND, MAINE
WE WILL HAVE ICE CREAM, CAKE AND MUNCHIES
PLEASE JOIN US IN THE SURPRISE CELEBRATION

Bring Mom to visit our greenhouses, florist and garden shop ... or call and we'll deliver!

Mother's Day, May 10th!

We have a Variety of Beautiful Hanging Baskets

Gorgeous Tuberous Begonias • Petunias
Calibrachoa (called million bells or trailing petunia)
Fuchsias • Ivy Geraniums • Impatiens
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Hunts Corner Cemetery Association
Meeting will be held
May 1 at 6:30 pm
at the home of
Betty Gingras.
FMI
824-3408

BETHEL WATER DISTRICT
11 PHILBROOK STREET
P.O. BOX 104
BETHEL, MAINE
04217-0104
207.824.2342
bwd@megalink.net

The Bethel Water District Trustees would like to let the Ratepayers know that monthly Trustees meeting are on the third Tuesday of every month, 7:00 pm, at the Town of Bethel meeting room. Public welcome.

You're invited to:
A Ladies Luncheon
Saturday, May 9, 2015
at 12:30 PM

Pleasant Valley Bible Church
407 Flat Road
West Bethel, ME
RSVP: 836-3006

Benefit for Meals on Wheels
Sunday, May 3 • 2-5
American Legion Hall
Locke Mills
FMI 800-427-1241
Live Music
Raffles & 50/50

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ANNUAL MEETING
Bethel Water District

The annual meeting for the Bethel Water District will take place at the Bethel Town Office Meeting Room, 19 Main Street, at 7:00 pm on May 19, 2015.

The regular monthly meeting will take place after the annual meeting.

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